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# Volume 26, 1941

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as second-class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office at Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900.

John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 Harrisburg, January 2, 1941 No. 1

## HORSE EVENT PRIZE TOPS LIVESTOCK LIST AT PENNA. FARM SHOW

STATISTICS may show that the horse is vanishing from the farm and that he is being replaced by mechanical power equipment, but the rating faithful Dobbin has received at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, which will be held from January 20 to 24, proves that he is by no means vanquished, John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture and Farm Show Commission Chairman, suggested today. Fifteen different exhibitors will have 100 horses on display at the great agricultural event indicating that there is still a widespread contention that rendition of the swan song over the usefulness of the horse is not yet to be considered.

The two mighty breeds of draft horses, the Belgian and the Percheron, will be the defenders of the horse kingdom and the claim of the superior value of horse power in farm operation. Awards will be given in 31 different classes for each breed divided into 13 prizes each for various classifications of stallions and mares and five group awards.

Not only does the horse hold an important place in the exhibition department but with his part-kin, the mule, will provide one of the most interesting phases of the fair entertainment program. The popular horse and mule pulling contest has been given a place as an evening attraction to be held in the arena.

With prizes ranging from $75 for first to $10 for seventh place, the awards in this event top those for any individual class in any other livestock department.

Entries for the pulling contest will close January 13 and will be confined to teams owned by residents of this State. The contest will be conducted under the rules prescribed by the Horse and Mule Association of America.

Acting upon the request of the wool and tobacco growers associations those exhibits will be moved to new sections in the show building. Wool will be moved from the second concourse in the large arena to a section near the sheep exhibit in the hog and sheep barn where ample space will be provided for more advantageous display.

The tobacco exhibit will be moved from the large arena to the main exhibition room to a section near the potato and small grains display, a location considered more appropriate than that previously occupied.

It was also announced that at the present time 95 percent of the exhibition space has been sold, 17 of the exhibitors to be represented at the show for the first time.

## PRECAUTION ACTION IS TAKEN BY DEPT.

AS a protective measure to prevent the possible spreading to this State of the peach mosaic, a disease which affects the leaves of peach trees and eventually causes the trees to become unproductive, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has withdrawn from 10 nurseries in Texas the privilege of shipping peach trees into Pennsylvania. The nurseries had previously been given certificates to ship nursery stock and fruit trees into this State. Later it was learned that trees were being shipped from a Texas nursery where peach mosaic had been found. Seeing the possibility that diseased trees might find their way into the nurseries in that State which had been certified by the Department, the quarantine against shipment of peach trees was decided upon to be in force until control measures will have been established by the Federal Government.

The disease is prevalent in seven Southern and Southeastern States.

## MOST OF PENNA. APPLE CROP STORED

PURCHASING of Pennsylvania apples by the Surplus Marketing Administration has been discontinued according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The purchases this season totalled 900 carloads.

Most of the remaining apple crop is now in storage and will not be placed on the market until the late Winter and Spring months.

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## TAPEWORMS PRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEM

TAPEWORMS form an important group of the numerous parasites which are commonly found in poultry and which cause serious problems for the poultry industry. The worms are elongated, ribbon-like parasites, varying greatly in length, some measuring a fraction of an inch while others will attain a length of from eight to 10 inches and more. The body is a series of semi-independent segments and the head is provided with suction discs and sometimes with rosettes of hooks which serve in anchoring the body to the wall of the intestine.

The eggs of the worm are contained in the segments at the end of the body which break away when fully developed and escape through the droppings. At this stage the eggs are not capable of infecting other birds, but must first pass through an intermediary stage of development. This takes place within small snails, flies or beetles. After the completion of this stage, if eaten by a susceptible bird, the worm attaches itself to the intestinal wall and proceeds with the final development into a mature tapeworm.

The presence of tapeworms in the intestinal tract usually induces some degree of inflammatory change which varies in proportion to the number of parasites present, the age of the bird and other factors.

Young birds and those just going into production may suffer severely from the infestation. Growth is checked, production reduced or stopped, the bird becoming weak and droopy and a high mortality may result. Recovered birds may be greatly reduced in value.

## 73,383 ELMS FALL IN DISEASE CRUSADE

SINCE the beginning about three years ago of the effort to eradicate the Dutch Elm disease in this State, 73,383 elm trees have been destroyed by government agents, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. In addition to the number destroyed, agents have pruned 53,688 trees as a means of eradicating the disease.

During the past month 18 additional diseased trees were found which brings the total of infected trees in this State to 455. The infected areas in Pennsylvania are confined to the Eastern section bordering on the Delaware River.

## INCREASE IS SHOWN IN COW PRODUCTION

REPORTS to the Department of Agriculture show that the average production per cow in herds in this State on December 1 was 15.4 pounds of milk, which was slightly more than three percent above the 10-year average and the average on the comparable date last year.

Grain fed averaged 5.9 pounds per cow for the State as a whole, compared with 6.1 pounds a year previous and with the five-year average (1934-1938) of 5.8 pounds.

## CHOLERA TREATMENT GIVEN 53,000 SWINE IN PA. DURING YEAR

THE extent to which the Department of Agriculture is engaged in the work of controlling hog cholera is shown by the report of Secretary John H. Light which indicates that during the present year about 53,000 swine on approximately 2,000 premises will have been vaccinated. This is an average of more than 4,400 vaccinations on 166 premises each month. As a result of the work thousands of dollars were saved for the farmer, it was announced.

In reviewing the work Secretary Light stated that the success of the efforts by the Department depends to a great extent upon the cooperation given by the hog owners. He stated that in the vaccination of swine it is required that a detailed report of the existence of the disease be sent to the department and that the owner must agree to cooperate by complying with the department laws and regulations pertaining to the prevention and control of the disease.

In cases where vaccination is administered the owner agrees to maintain swine on a sanitary premise, to limit or withhold feed from the swine for a period of 12 hours previous to vaccination, to feed only half rations four or five days subsequent to vaccination, to have the swine confined to clean pens, to remove no swine from the premises other than for immediate slaughter unless the swine are healthy and have been given an antiseptic bath and the purchaser has been given notice of the date of vaccination, by the serum-virus method and to remove no swine from the premises where hog cholera exists except upon written permits from the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture or the District Agent.

The following suggestions are made by the Department as a means through which farmers and hog owners can greatly assist in the prevention of the disease: Breed and raise your own pigs, if purchase of breeding stock is necessary, buy only from farms known to be free of cholera, isolate newly purchased animals before adding them to the native stock, keep pens clean, and if cholera develops in the neighborhood, confine your dog so it will not be able to carry the disease.

## PRINCIPAL PA. CROPS INCREASE IN VALUE

VALUE of the principal field and fruit crops in Pennsylvania in 1940 is placed at $140,850,000, compared with $139,106,000 for 1939, a one percent increase, according to estimates issued by the Department of Agriculture. The combined production of nine major field crops this year was about 5 percent larger than 1939 and 12 percent better than the 1929-38 average. Production of corn, wheat and rye declined 7 percent from last year but this decrease was more than offset by a larger production of all other field crops, particularly oats and hay. The acreage harvested this year, exclusive of fruit and truck crops, was nearly equal to 1939. Yields have generally averaged better than a year ago except for corn, wheat, barley and rye. The rapid expansion in acreage of barley and soybeans was again evidenced this year. It is estimated that around 79,000 acres of soybeans were planted in 1940 of which about 19 percent was harvested for beans. Total fruit production, while not up to 1939 records, was good and exceeded average by 12 percent, an unexpected outturn in view of the backward season.

## EGG PRICE ADVANCES DURING NOVEMBER

THE average price received for eggs by Pennsylvania farmers on November 15, was 32.8 cents a dozen, compared with 29.9 cents a month earlier, and 31 cents on November 15, 1939. Chicken prices averaged 16 cents a pound live weight, which was two tenths of a cent lower than on October 15 and three tenths of a cent lower than on November 15, last year. The average price for turkeys was 23 cents a pound live weight, compared with 22 cents a month earlier and 24 cents a pound November 15, 1939.

PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW--HARRISBURG, PA.--JANUARY 20 to 24, 1941

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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 | Harrisburg, January 9, 1941 | No. 2

## 4,069 BIRDS ENTERED IN POULTRY EXHIBIT PLAN APPLE DISPLAY

WITH a total of 4,069 individual birds entered for exhibition at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, to be held January 20 to 24, that exhibit department will present the appearance of a large-scale poultry farm, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture and Farm Show Commission Chairman has suggested. The number of birds entered for this show represents an increase of 434 over the 1940 Show entries, which is taken as an indication of an increased tendency to bring the poultry industry in this State to a still higher plane through the greater development of pure bred birds as well as the increased acceptance of the exhibition value of the Farm Show.

The entries are divided into the following classifications with the number of birds entered in each class: Large birds, 200 exhibitors, 2,537 entries; Bantams, 65 exhibitors, 1,050 entries; Turkeys, 15 exhibitors, 165 entries; Geese, 10 exhibitors, 96 entries, and Ducks, 15 exhibitors, 221 entries.

Exhibition space in the vast farm show building devoted to the poultry department covers approximately 32,000 square feet. Fifty-six different breeds and varieties will be included in the exhibits in addition to 14 game and 12 ornamental breeds and varieties of Bantams. There will be six breeds of turkeys, 11 breeds of ducks and eight breeds of geese.

The vast proportions of the poultry industry in this State and the important position it occupies in agriculture are seen in the figures covering the operations of that business during the period of a year. In 1939 the cash income from the sale of chickens from Pennsylvania farms was $15,282,000 and the value of the eggs sold was $32,700,000. On January 1 this year the number of chickens on farms in this State was placed at 29,077,000 with a value of $17,266,000.

When visitors to the show view the excellent display of commercially packed apples, they will see the fruit exactly as they buy it on the markets and not specimens selected only for exhibition purposes. Every package in the exhibit is chosen at random from the fruit growers' storage houses by County farm agents, representatives of State College Extension Service or fruit inspectors of the Department of Agriculture.

Judging from the great number of entries the Farm Show stands high in popularity among apple growers as a source of acquainting the public more definitely with the outstanding quality of Pennsylvania apples. Most of the baskets or boxes of fruit selected for this exhibition class meet the requirements of the U. S. grades which shows the great progress made in recent years in improving the packing of Pennsylvania apples. The exhibit represents a cross section of the apples offered for sale on the regular markets.

## ACREAGE IN WHEAT SAME AS LAST YEAR

THE fall seeded acreage of winter wheat in Pennsylvania for harvest next summer is estimated at 935,000 acres and represents no change from the average planted for harvest in 1940, according to the latest report issued by the Department of Agriculture. Keystone farmers however, have indicated a 2 percent reduction in rye acreage seeded this fall, compared with last. Normally about 3 percent of the wheat and 25 percent of the rye acreage planted in the fall is not harvested for grain the following summer.

Condition of the new crop seedings of wheat on December 1 was reported at 92 percent of normal and for rye 85 percent. These figures are about the same as the 1930-37 average December 1 condition but better than the 1940 crop on that date.

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## SUGGEST PATRONS KNOW SALE RULES

PERSONS dealing with a Community Sale should acquaint themselves with the business methods of the sales management and the rules and regulations covering the sale of livestock to prevent misunderstanding and the spread of disease, the Department of Agriculture has advised.

Most successful sales do not allow employes or owners to bid on animals in the sales ring in order to raise the price. While such practices may increase the revenue to the farmer, most of the butchers and customers soon discover the racket and in the end the farmer and the sale suffers. A successful sale manager will allow no partiality or special favors in the selling of livestock nor in the paying for them.

Most of the sales in Pennsylvania try to obey the laws and regulations covering the sale of livestock because they know that an outbreak of disease causes only loss. Only animals which are taken from a sale, fattened and then returned for resale benefit the Community Sale.

Such practices as gorging the animals with feed before delivering them to the sales, or withholding water and salting heavily in order to cause the animals to drink excessive water in the hope of gaining weight, are universally discredited.

The butchers who buy such animals are nearly all experienced buyers and can detect the practices at a glance. The result is that animals of good quality may be sold at a price well below the market, because the butcher is considering the shrinkage he must take at the time of slaughter.

Farmers consigning animals to a sale should know the methods used at that particular sale. Some sales sell animals on the in weight, while others sell on out weight.

The health of all animals should be of paramount importance before making a purchase. Frequently prospective buyers examine cows consigned to a sale for slaughter purposes, in the hope of finding a springer to take home for dairy purposes. This is a poor method of obtaining a cow and it should be remembered that if these animals were of any value as producers they would not have been consigned to the sale by the original owner. Besides, such animals may be diseased and infect the herd to which they are added.

## 82.10% PRODUCTION REACHED IN CONTEST

AT the end of the eleventh week of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest, production reached 57.40 percent. The total number of eggs produced during the 11 weeks was 45,393 and the average number of eggs per bird was 44.20. The number of eggs produced during the eleventh week was 4,513 or 62.78 percent. The number of birds competing was 1,027.

During the week first place was attained by a pen of Single Comb White Leghorns with 82.10 percent production. Second place was held by a pen of Rhode Island Reds with 80.05 percent production.

## HISTORY OF TIMOTHY SHOWS PLANT USED FOR HAY IN 1720

TIMOTHY, the most important cultivated grass in America, has an interesting history, according to records of the Department of Agriculture. It is grown for the food of livestock, in the form of hay, pasturing and silage and its use in the control of soil erosion has attracted considerable attention.

While timothy is a native grass of England where it grew in waste places under the name of "Cats-tail-grass," it was in the United States that it was first brought under cultivation. It was used as a hay plant as early as 1720, by a man named "Herd" living near Plymouth, New Hampshire and ever since has been known in New England, as "Herds Grass." Taken to New York, Maryland and Virginia by one Timothy Hanson, who probably came from the vicinity of Plymouth, it became popular in these colonies and in Pennsylvania. Here it was known as "Timothy Hanson's Grass," a name which later was shortened to "Timothy." It was frequently mentioned in colonial records from 1746 on and today is considered one of the most important hay plants in the East. It also thrives in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains and the central region of the Pacific Northwest. Throughout these regions it is more extensively grown for hay, either alone or in mixtures with the clovers and alfalfa, than all the other grasses combined.

As hay, timothy contains all of the known vitamins except "C." Its recognized palatability as a pasture grass is demonstrated by the fact that stock will usually graze the timothy in preference to redtop, orchard grass or even Kentucky bluegrass. Where it grows well, it is often included in mixtures of other grasses and legumes sown in permanent pastures. For silage the use of timothy is of recent origin and is yet very limited. In order to make feed of high quality, the silage is usually mixed with molasses.

If excess rainfall delays harvesting a crop intended for hay, it may be left until it is mature and then utilized as a seed crop. Iowa and Missouri lead in the production of timothy seed and most of it is harvested in a few states in the central West. Pennsylvania, however, in 1939 produced 48,000 bushels.

During the Fall months of the past year, a hundred samples of timothy seed, sent by farmers to the Department of Agriculture, have been analyzed for purity and tested for germination.

The average percentage of purity was 99, one percent higher than the accepted standard of 98. Of the impurities constituting the remaining one percent, the inert matter and the seeds of other crops were almost negligible. The weed seeds, however, appeared in larger quantities. Of the 44 different species of weeds represented, only one contained the seed of noxious weed.

The average percentage of germination was 85. While this result might appear to indicate low crop producing value of the seed, it can be attributed to the fact that the tests were made soon after the seed was harvested before it had passed through the after-ripening process, necessary for satisfactory germination. Tests made two or three weeks later, it is believed, would have resulted in a higher percentage of viability.

## DEMAND FOR CABBAGE IS LOW IN SECTIONS

REPORTS to the Department of Agriculture show that much of the late Danish cabbage remaining in the Waterford, Erie County area, is light in weight and of small soft heads which will probably never be harvested. Dealer storages are not filled to capacity, but much of the crop is being held on farms.

In Indiana County most of the crop has been sold and in Schuylkill County a few fields were left uncut, it is reported. Most of the crop is in storage. Growers in the Southeastern counties report a good demand and the price steady for late cabbage while in all other sections of the State growers who have cabbage to sell state there is no demand at any price.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## YOUTH ACTIVITIES HAVE CONSPICUOUS PART IN FARM SHOW

YOUTH will play a prominent part in the Pennsylvania Farm Show to be held January 20 to 24. Their activities are centered in three groups, the 4-H clubs, the Future Farmers of America and the Vocational division, each of which is designed to develop knowledge and interest in farming among the young generations.

The great State show is looked upon as a source of unusual value in advancing the interest in agriculture among the youth of the State and also in bringing forcibly before them the necessity of more advanced and scientific methods in farming and the breeding and care of livestock.

That the effort to develop this interest in the youth is meeting with success is seen in the continued increase in the activities and in the number of exhibits placed by the 4-H Club members. Entries in the dairy division of those clubs comprise a total of 85 cattle for the next show as compared with 57 cattle in the show of 1940. According to breeds, the exhibits are as follows: Brown Swiss, 11; Jerseys, 12; Ayshires, 6; Guernseys, 23; and Holsteins, 33. There are also 100 baby beeves and 56 pens of sheep entered for the 4-H Club groups. A total of 26 swine are entered in the vocational classes.

In addition to having exhibits the 4-H clubs will have assemblies each day excepting Friday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon in the Main Show Building. The 4-H Club leaders will meet at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the Vocational demonstrations will be conducted beginning at 9 o'clock in the morning during which they will demonstrate the things they have learned in their vocational classes during the school term which include the care and dressing of poultry, the care of cattle, the testing of soils, selection of seeds, farm practices and other subjects.

The Future Farmers will meet in the Educational Building Forum at 1 o'clock Monday and Tuesday afternoons and at 6 o'clock Tuesday evening they will hold a banquet in the Fifth Avenue Methodist Church, Harrisburg at which the presentation of project contest awards will be made.

## SWINE PRODUCTION CONTINUES DECREASE

THE decline in Pennsylvania Hog production which started in the Spring of 1940 continued through the Fall and will continue at least through the Spring of 1941 according to reports of Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. It is also indicated that the decline has been at an increasing rate, the percentage of decrease in the 1940 Fall pig crop having been greater than that of last Spring and the indicated percentage of decrease for next Spring being slightly greater than that for the past Fall.

The pig crop in the Fall season of 1940, figured from June 1 to December 1, is estimated at 403,000 as compared with 489,000 the year previously, and the pig crop in the 1940 Spring season, figured from December 1, 1939 to June 1, 1940 showed a decrease from 420,000 the year previously to 409,000, registering a total decrease for the year of 97,000 pigs, 88,000 of which was during the past Fall season.

The number of sows that farrowed during the Fall season, June 1 to December 1, 1939 was estimated at 73,000 as compared with 61,000 the past season and the estimated number of sows to farrow during the Spring season from December 1, 1940 to June 1 this year is 74,000 as compared with 67,000 during the last Spring season.

## PENNA. RANKS THIRD IN VALUE OF APPLES

ALTHOUGH Pennsylvania is fourth among the states of the country in the production of apples, it ranked third in 1940 in the value of the crop. According to compilations of the Department of Agriculture the value of the 10,998,000 bushels is placed at $7,280,000.

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## CONSTANT VIGILANCE AGAINST MANGE IS ADVICE TO STOCKMEN

MANGE in domestic animals is a disease requiring constant vigilance on the part of live stock owners and animal health officials if heavy losses are to be averted, according to a warning issued by the Department.

Established control measures have effected a marked reduction or complete eradication of sarcoptic mange in horses and scab in sheep over large areas of the world.

What happens when control breaks down is well illustrated by war-time experiences of the past. The exigencies of military service frequently cause overcrowding of animals under unfavorable conditions. Outbreaks of mange under such circumstances have resulted in the complete immobilization of whole military units.

Other forms of mange may be less spectacular or destructive in their effects but no effort should be spared in the reduction of their occurence.

Sarcoptic mange, if neglected or overlooked may cause much loss among cattle and pigs. Whole litters of young pigs may be so severely infested that they are hardly worth the cost of treatment. Older pigs may be more resistant but act as carriers. The disease in those cases may be confined to the ears.

Ear manges are also found in goats, dogs, cats, domestic rabbits and ranch foxes. Secondary complications may arise in the middle ear producing incurable nervous disorders.

Domestic poultry may also suffer from mange, one form producing lameness or deformity in the feet, another attacking the follicles of the body feathers.

## POTATO GRADING HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES

RESULTS of outstanding benefit to the grower, the dealer and the public are indicated in reports to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture as the result of the more thorough enforcement by the department of the potato marketing law over the past two years. The reports show that the number of misbranded packs of potatoes on the markets of cities in this State has been greatly reduced and that the improvement in branding has increased the spread in the prices between U. S. No. 1 quality and the lower grades and at the same time has reduced the price range for stocks quoted as No. 1 quality, which is a beneficial market condition.

The effect of the more widespread enforcement of the law has been to assure the public of receiving quality according to the grade marking and this has had a most beneficial effect upon both price and demand for Pennsylvania potatoes. Although the potato market throughout the country has not been strong this season, reports show that the demand for Pennsylvania potatoes has been good and prices better than expected. It is also reported that shipments into this State from other states have been lighter than in previous years.

## APIARY INSPECTION IN THIS STATE NOW ON 3-YEAR BASIS

UNDER a new program established by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture early last year apiary inspection in this State has now been placed on a three-year basis providing for systematic inspections for the first time since the work was begun. Under the previous plan five and six years elapsed between inspections in many areas and when the new system was put into operation it was found that no inspections had been made in 16 counties since 1934.

Under the new plan the State was divided into four areas which would provide for the entire State to have undergone inspection during the period of four years. As the work progressed, however, the plan was enlarged and reports for 1940 show that the period of inspection has now been reduced to a three-year basis.

During the year just closed 18 counties extending Eastward from the Western boundary were completely inspected, a greater number of inspections having been made than during any previous year. The inspections covered a total of 8,913 apiaries comprising 52,644 colonies of bees as compared with 4,966 apiaries comprising 36,322 colonies in 1938.

The important position held by the bee industry in this State is seen by the report which shows that the estimated value of the plant equipment in that industry is placed at more than one million dollars, that more than 27,000 people are engaged in the industry and that the average annual value of bee products is placed at one million dollars.

## VALUE OF CORN CROP HAS BIG LEAD IN PA.

WITH a value of $41,839,000, corn held a substantial lead over all other farm crops raised during 1940 in Pennsylvania according to the Department of Agriculture. The corn acreage totalled 1,341,000 and the average yield was 40 bushels per acre giving a total production of 53,640,000 bushels.

Tame hay holds second place in value, the total production having been 3,238,000 tons valued at $32,056,000. A total of 2,400,000 acres were devoted to that crop and the average yield per acre was 1.35 tons per acre.

Of the 10 principal crops raised in this State the rank of the remaining eight is as follows: Potatoes, 189,000 acres, average yield 130 bushels per acre, total production 24,570,000 bushels with a value of $16,953,000; wheat, 917,000 acres, average yield 20.5 bushels per acre, total production 18,789,000 with a value of $15,219,000; oats, 888,000 acres, average yield 35 bushels per acre, total production 31,080,000 bushels valued at $12,743,000; commercial apples, 10,998,000 bushels valued at $7,280,000; commercial truck crops, 65,610 acres with a crop valued at $6,206,000, tobacco, 33,300 acres, average yield 1,451 pounds per acre, total production 48,324,000 pounds valued at $6,040,000; peaches, 2,356,000 bushels valued at $2,238,000, and barley, 155,000 acres, average yield 26 bushels per acre, total production 4,030,000 bushels valued at $2,216.000.

Pennsylvania ranks first in the Nation in the production of cigar-leaf tobacco, third in the production of peaches and fourth in the production of potatoes and apples.

## SUGGESTS SPRAYS FOR OYSTER SHELL SCALE

IT is suggested by the Department of Agriculture that efforts be made during the Winter months to control the oyster shell scale where it is prevalent as any control effort is effective only when the trees or shrubs are in a dormant state. The scale is one of the most widespread of insects and levels its devastating work against more than 100 species of trees and shrubs. A thorough application of lime-sulphur solution will kill a large percentage of the scales, in some cases three applications being required. The most effective spray solutions are the miscible and soluble oils, but the application should be made to permit the solution to dry during the same day.

PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW--HARRISBURG, PA.--JANUARY 20 to 24, 1941

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 | Harrisburg, January 23, 1941 | No. 4

MAY 15 1941

## PROVIDING FEED FOR STOCK AT FARM SHOW IS BIG UNDERTAKING

ONE of the most interesting and at the same time extensive operations at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, being held this week for the 25th year, is the feeding and care of the great army of livestock and the poultry. With 1,312 head of livestock and 4,069 individual birds entered for exhibition, the show presents the appearance of a vast livestock and poultry farm enterprise.

Nearly three acres of floor space are devoted to the livestock and poultry departments. Two and one-half acres are devoted to the commercial exhibits, all the 870 spaces being occupied. At the various evening features of the program held in the arena, that vast center with a seating capacity of more than 7,600 was crowded with enthusiastic audiences for each event.

There are 368 entries of dairy cattle representing the best of the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian and Jersey breeds in this State. There are 361 head of sheep entered, representing an increase of 76 over last year; 265 hogs, which is an increase of 25 over last year. There are 100 horses entered divided between the Belgian and Percheron breeds.

The various youth organizations, including the 4-H Clubs, Vocational Clubs and the Future Farmers of America took an active and important part in the show during the week, 4-H Club members having 120 beef cattle, 100 baby beeves and 85 dairy cattle entered in the competitive classes.

Most of the exhibitors bring their own feed and hay but for those who do not, provision is made by the Farm Show Commission for the purchase of those necessities at the show building. The commission makes provision for all straw and bedding required.

To meet the requirements of those exhibitors who do not bring their own feed and hay the commission purchased five tons of alfalfa and eight tons of timothy hay, one ton each of bran, shelled and ground corn, oats and pig meal, two tons of cracked corn, two and one half tons of scratch feed, one half ton each of poultry grit, poultry mash, horse feed, salt and middlings. For bedding 350 bales of shavings, 40 bales each of peat moss and dry poultry litter and 60 tons of straw were purchased.

## 2 SETS TWIN CALVES BORN ON SAME FARM

SOME time ago a publication of a mid-western state attached considerable importance to the birth of twin calves on a farm in that State, pointing to it as an unusual occurrence. According to reports to the Department of Agriculture twin calves in this State are of sufficiently frequent occurrence as to cause little attention to be paid to the event. However, to make sure that Pennsylvania would not be outdone in any agricultural enterprise of this kind, a herd of cattle owned by William Royer of Blair County, brother of John F. Royer, State Secretary of Personnel, saw to it that this State could maintain its position of supremacy in unusual events.

Evidently contending that a set of twins has become second class, two cows of the Royer herd each gave birth to a set of twins recently within a period of 18 days.

The first set, heifers of purebred registered Brown Swiss stock, have also been registered. The second set was of twin bulls from a grade Jersey dam and a registered Brown Swiss sire.

The herd not only provided a new mark for twin calf births but also maintained the twin tradition of the Royer family. Mr. and Mrs. William Royer have no children but Mr. Royer has twin nieces and Mrs. Royer has twin nephews. The twin heifers were named Margaret Louise and Anna Lois, after the twin girls and the bulls were given the names of the twin boys, Billy and David.

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## 186,333 TESTS MADE FOR ANIMAL DISEASE DURING ONE MONTH

DURING the month of December the laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture examined a total of 186,333 specimens of various kinds for the purpose of detecting possible disease. Chicken specimens led the list with a total of 192,442 having been examined, most of them for pullorum disease.

The number of blood samples of cattle, totaling 42,169 held second place in the examinations made, all of them having been tested for Bang's disease. Of that number 1,079 were found to be infected. Tests were also made on 58 samples of goats for the same purpose.

Included in the examinations were seven horses, 11 swine, one rabbit, 1,555 turkeys, one pigeon and 19 partridges. Tests were made of 37 dogs, 20 of which were examined for rabies, six of them having shown the infection. Reports to the department show that 17 persons and 28 animals were bitten by or exposed to rabid dogs during the month.

The Bureau of Animal Industry is the only State organization dealing with communicable diseases of animals, including poultry and through the laboratory has made outstanding contributions to the control and eradication of disease. Through the laboratory types of disease are also determined which permit of proper treatment for control. This service is constantly available to all persons in this State.

## INTENSIFY EFFORTS AGAINST GYPSY MOTH

INTENSIVE efforts are being carried on during the Winter season in the control of the gypsy moth, 56 crews of men having been engaged, 38 of them in scouting and 18 crews operating in the thinning, cleaning and quarantine work during the month of December, according to the report of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. The counties in which the work was conducted are Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe and Wayne.

The extent of the operations is seen in the report which covers the period from July 1 to December 15, 1940 in which it is shown that 63,746 acres were scouted for detection of the moth, 125 acres were cleaned of waste material which would provide harboring places for the development of the moth, 6,213 shipments of various articles were inspected to prevent the carrying of the moth into other areas. In addition to the shipments, inspections were made of 251,103 mine timbers, 7,594 specimens of nursery stock, 2,253 cords of wood, 292,083 feet of lumber, 53,150 feet of Christmas greens, 47,166 tons of stone and 696 tons of metal.

During that period a total of 44,220 apple trees and 174,708 shade trees were checked for the existence of the moth.

## CANNING INDUSTRY MAKES NEW STRIDES BIG INCREASE SHOWN

THE Pennsylvania canning industry set a new pace in 1940 in the rapid increase it has been making in this State over the past 15 years, according to reports of Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light.

During the last season Pennsylvania growers devoted 41,040 acres of farmland to the growing of vegetables for canning as compared with 38,260 acres in 1939; 34,610 acres in 1937 and an average of 16,642 acres during the years 1928 to 1932. The cash income to the farmer from the crops has nearly tripled during that same period.

In addition to the principal vegetables which are corn, peas, beans and tomatoes, now being canned on extensive scales in this State, Secretary Light reported that the canning of many fruits, fruit products, mushrooms and many other articles including soups, condiments and special items is showing a continuous increase and the combined products have already placed Pennsylvania in fourth place among the principal canning states of the country.

Secretary Light pointed out that the increases being made in the industry are of a permanent nature, a number of canneries having been moved to Pennsylvania from other states. The principal reasons for canners being attracted to this State it is suggested are the exceptionally favorable climate for the growing and raising of the products, good soils for canning crops, close proximity to the largest markets, available labor and favorable labor laws.

## MEATS ARE HIGH IN VITAMIN CONTENT

THE value of meats as a source of vitamins has been pointed out by the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, it being shown that a meal of beefstew, roast pork or liver and onions with a side dish of spinach, followed with a glass of milk is about 100 percent complete in so far as vitamins are concerned.

It is explained that vitamins are chemical substances contained in foods, that they have always been there, not being a creation of the chemist, but that they were unknown until of comparative recent date. They are found in small quantities and are necessary for health, growth, normal functioning and even for life itself.

The chemist discovered the value of vitamins by their effect on animals receiving feed which did not contain them. Where butter fat was removed from the diet and some fat substituted from which the vitamins had been removed or destroyed or which lacked fat soluble vitamins, rats gave evidence of being greatly affected in health. The eyelids developed an inflamed granulated appearance, they lost weight and finally died unless the missing substance was restored to the diet.

It is pointed out that it is frequently asked how people lived previous to the discovery of vitamins to which the reply is made that food has always contained these sources of life-sustaining qualities but by their discovery it has been made possible to arrange diets so that they are procured in proper quantities.

Meats are said to be a veritable storehouse of vitamins. Liver contains vitamins A, three types of B and traces of C, the heart, kidneys, sweetbreads and brain contain vitamins A and B, beef contains vitamins A, B and traces of C, lamb contains vitamin B in large amounts, veal and pork contain all three types of vitamin B.

Apples are high in vitamin content, containing A, three types of B and C. Spinach is also rich in vitamins A, B and D.

## CARROTS NOT MARKETED

REPORTS of the Department of Agriculture show that a large portion of the carrot crop in the Southeastern counties of this State have not yet been marketed and that movement from storages has been slow.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as second-class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office at Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900.

John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 | Harrisburg, January 30, 1941 | No. 5

## ACREAGE LISTED FOR SEED CERTIFICATION HIGHEST ON RECORD

A TOTAL of 1,824 acres were entered with the Department of Agriculture in 1940 for seed potato certification which is the largest acreage entered during one year since the establishment of that work, Secretary John H. Light has reported. Of that acreage 814 acres met inspection requirements, according to the report. The rejected acreage is the highest of any of the previous five years.

The heavy rejections are attributed largely to the bacterial ring rot, a comparatively new disease which caused more rejections than any other single disease.

According to the report the disease has appeared in most of the potato growing districts of this State as well as in probably all of the principal potato growing States of the country. In some states it is said to be more serious than in Pennsylvania.

Indications are reported to be that the disease may become a serious problem for potato growers and that only slight infection in the seed used may result in as much as 50 percent loss of the crop at digging time.

The practice of not certifying any seed on a farm where the disease has appeared, even though it may not have been found in fields actually covered for certification, has been adopted by the Department in the effort to control the pest.

According to the report a total of 141 growers entered their potatoes for certification and of that number 74 passed the requirements. There was a total of 219,972 bushels certified for seed.

## INCREASE REPORTED IN STORED APPLES

ACCORDING to reports of the Department of Agriculture there were 1,544,000 bushels of apples in storage in this State on January 1 as compared with 1,321,000 bushels of apples on that date last year. The report also shows that the carload shipments of apples this season up to January 4 totalled 781 as compared with 1,039 carloads last season up to that date. The total shipments last season amounted to 1,865 carloads.

Buying of apples by the Surplus Commodities Corporation, discontinued a few weeks ago, has been resumed, 40 carloads having been purchased recently. In some sections most of the apples previously purchased by the corporation have been moved from storage.

In addition to apples the report shows that on January 1 there were held in storage in this State 6,000 40-quart cans of cream, 1,860,000 pounds of butter, 3,092 pounds of American cheese, 48,000 cases of eggs, 3,439,000 pounds of frozen eggs and 7,141,000 pounds of poultry.

## DESTROY BARBERRY TO CONTROL DISEASE

ACCORDING to the report of Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, a total of 192 men were employed in 12 counties during the month of December in the eradication of barberry disease. During the four weeks ending December 21, 231 properties were covered in the work on which 63,653 bushes of barberry were destroyed in which a total of 45,565 pounds of salt was used.

During the four weeks covered by the report only two additional trees were found to be affected by the Dutch Elm disease to bring the total of infected trees in this State at that time to 484.

The counties in which the work is being conducted are Bradford, Crawford, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Centre, Susquehanna, Tioga, Erie, Warren, Wayne and Lancaster.

Since the institution of that work a total of 74,114 diseased, dead and dying elm trees have been destroyed by agents of the department and 53,962 trees have been pruned in the effort to eradicate the disease.

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## EXPLAIN EFFECTS OF SWINE ERYSIPELAS

SWINE erysipelas is a specific, infectious, and transmissible disease of swine caused by a small, quite resistant micro-organism, according to the Department of Agriculture. It chiefly affects young pigs during the period of their most rapid growth although hogs of any age may become infected. Acute cases are characterized by the presence of the causative organism and its products in the blood and organs of the body, while chronic cases show evidence of secondary complications with the organism found only in the lesions or affected parts. The resistance of the causative agent is indicated by its ability to live for considerable time in carcasses of diseased animals and to withstand pickling and salting. Two and one-half hours of boiling are required to sterilize a piece of meat six inches thick. The organism can live and even multiply in the soil for a period of months. On the other hand it is destroyed by ordinary disinfectants.

The main point of infection is the alimentary tract, though wound infection may occur. Healthy hogs may carry the organism in the throat, tonsils, and intestines and be sources of infection, but contact of sick and susceptible hogs is the greatest factor in the spread of the disease. The lowering of resistance of hogs by insanitary, filthy environs favors development and spread of the disease which may also occur in conjunction with hog cholera. Mortality is variable.

The acute septicemic cases present symptoms of depression or prostration, high fever, loss of appetite, eye and nasal discharge, occasionally thumps, labored breathing and constipation followed by diarrhea. Death or incomplete recovery results in subacute or chronic cases. In the latter type localizations occur chiefly in the joints and heart giving rise to symptoms of staggering, stiffness, stilted gait, lameness, difficult breathing, rapid exhaustion and collapse on exertion. Animals in this condition are stunted and worthless.

A mild form of erysipelas of the skin occurs with formation of dark, diamond shaped, rhomboidal or quadrangular areas or blotches on the thin, sparsely haired regions of the body. These cases generally make recovery after healing of such areas, although skin gangrene may result occasionally. Skin lesions may also occur simultaneously with other forms or types of the disease.

The organism of swine erysipelas is capable of producing a condition in humans known as erysipeloid and definite precautions should be taken when suspected animals or material are to be contacted by handling.

## EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

EGG production in December was 149 million as compared with 136 million in the comparative month in 1939, Department of Agriculture reports show. The number of layers is placed at 15,372,000 as compared with 15,476,000 the year previously.

## CANNERY INSPECTION DURING PAST SEASON BROKE ALL RECORDS

ALL previous records were broken in 1940 in cannery products work of the Department of Agriculture, according to the report of Secretary John H. Light. New high marks were established in the number of acres contracted by growers for State inspection, in the number of inspectors employed and in the number of inspection days worked.

The report shows that of the 18,700 acres in this State devoted to the growing of tomatoes for use by canneries, the crop from 17,630 acres were sold under State inspection. A total of 33 inspectors were employed to do the work.

According to the report 105,000,000 pounds of tomatoes were inspected during the 1940 season for which the growers received an average of $14.76 a ton. It is stated that the tomato acreage in this State was greater than in any previous year and that present reports indicate a still greater acreage for the 1941 season. The continued increase is said to be bringing this State to the front ranks of the principal tomato canning states of the country.

## FEED CATTLE IN PA. INCREASE SLIGHTLY

A SMALL increase in the number of cattle on feed in Pennsylvania on the first of this year is reported by the Department of Agriculture. This compares with a reported increase of 11 percent in the Corn Belt States and a number equal to that of the same date a year previously for the entire country.

During the first 11 months of 1940 shipments of feeder and stocker cattle through stockyards into this State were 14 percent lower than for the similar period of 1939, but the decline is believed to have been offset by increases in the number of cattle shipped direct and in feeders raised locally. The decline in movement of feeder cattle through stockyards has been attributed to an immature corn crop, higher prices for feeders and stockers, relatively low beef prices and difficulty in procuring labor. Demand for lighter weight steers is reported to be increasing.

Compared with intentions reported in January 1939 cattle feeders indicate that a slightly higher percentage of cattle feeding will be finished for market in May or later.

## 6,256 CATTLE TESTED FOR BANGS IN DEC.

DURING the month of December 631 herds comprising 6,256 cattle underwent the initial test for Bang's disease according to the report of John H. Light, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. In those tests 1.65 percent of the herds and 6.1 percent of the cattle were found to be infected.

In addition to the initial tests the department retested a total of 1,283 herds comprising 13,421 cattle of which 19.8 percent of the herds and 3.5 percent of the cattle were infected. Indemnities were paid on 163 purebred and 1,177 grade cattle amounting to $44,319.90 from State funds and $33,411.86 from Federal funds.

It is also reported that during the past month 6,256 swine were vaccinated against hog cholera on 150 premises. Eleven premises were quarantined because of the presence of the disease.

## CONTEST PRODUCTION REACHES 59 PERCENT

THE last report of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest shows the weekly production to have reached 59 percent for the 1,027 birds competing. The total number of eggs to that time was 59,829 and the average number of eggs per bird was 58.26. The leading pen for the week was that of Rhode Island Reds with a production of 85 eggs. The leading pen to date is one of Single Comb White Leghorns with a total of 1,052 eggs.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 Harrisburg, February 6, 1941 No. 6

## INSPECTION OF PEAS REACHED NEW HIGH DURING PAST SEASON

THE grading under the direction of the Department of Agriculture of green peas grown in this State for commercial canning reached an all-time high in the 1940 season, totalling 5,100,000 pounds, according to Secretary John H. Light. This was an increase of 500 percent over 1936 and more than double the quantity inspected during the 1939 season, which was 2,081,000 pounds.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is the pioneer in the grading of peas for canning, this being the first State to issue grades and to inaugurate official inspection for that crop.

The acreage devoted to the growing of peas the past season was 7,000 compared with the 10-year average, 1929-1938, of 4,450 acres. The yield averaged 1.2 tons per acre, the past season, which was the highest of any state and the average price paid was $54.50 a ton, the third highest rate paid in any state. The average value of the crop per acre was $66.86.

The report shows that the value of the four principal crops grown in this State for commercial canning during the 1940 season totalled $2,262,000 as compared with the 1929-1938 average value of $1,091,000. Besides peas the crops are snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes.

The snap bean acreage was 2,490 giving a total production of 3,200 tons, the average value of which was $43.78 per acre. Eleven thousand acres were devoted to sweet corn from which 24,200 tons were harvested and the average value per acre was $23.36. The green pea acreage was 7,000, the total production was 8,580 tons, estimated in shelled pounds, and the average value per acre was $66.86. The tomato acreage was 18,700, the total production was 106,000 tons and the average value per acre was $76.36.

## SUGGEST WIDER USE OF POTATOES IN DIET

SINCE potatoes are one of the most economical and healthful foods available, their more widespread use as a part of the diet could prove of much advantage it is stated by the Department of Agriculture. Often maligned as being particularly fattening, the medium-size potato has fewer calories than one-fourth its weight of macaroni, oatmeal or cake; fewer calories than one-third its weight of rice or pie and fewer calories than one-half its weight of bread or doughnuts, according to reports of doctors, dietitians and nutrition experts, which are pointed to as a refutation of the over-fattening charge.

Potatoes are referred to by food experts as being especially desirable in the diet for acid counteracting properties, for minerals not available in many other foods and for vitamins A, B and C which are present in appreciable quantities. Generally potatoes are an economical food, but this year they are said to hold a greater advantage from the fact that while price advances are being made in many other foods, the potato price is relatively lower as the result of good crop yields the past season.

## CABBAGE IS UNSOLD IN WATERFORD AREA

MUCH Danish cabbage remains on the farms in the Erie County section, known as the Waterford area, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The lack of a good market and the reported poor condition of much of the stored crop has caused growers to feed considerable quantities to livestock. In other sections of this State little cabbage remains to be marketed.

## MILK PRODUCTION REACHES HIGH MARK

THE average production of milk per cow in herds of this State on January 1 was 16.2 pounds daily as compared with an average of 15.7 pounds on that date in 1940. The 10-year average production from 1930 to 1939 was 15.2 pounds.

The report also shows that the eggs produced per 100 layers the first of this year was 35.4 as compared with 31.3 on that date last year and a 10-year average including 1939 of 23.8 eggs.

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## ADVISE TREATMENT FOR GRUB IN SHEEP WIDESPREAD PEST

A COMMON and widespread pest of the sheep raising industry is the nose grub or grub in the herd of sheep and a near relative of the warbles of cattle and of bots in horses, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Nose grubs are commonly found during the winter months in the head sinuses communicating with the nasal cavity of sheep. They grow to an inch or so in length. The mouth is provided with strong hooks and the body is spiny. One or two grubs only may be present but sometimes as many as forty of fifty may be found in various stages of development.

The presence of the grubs produces a catarrhal condition in the nose and sinuses. A nasal discharge, which may be one sided, is usual. The sheep show evident discomfort. Breathing is noisy and sneezing frequent. Secondary infection may take place and in rare cases inflammation may extend to the brain with fatal results.

Around spring time when the grubs usually have attained their full size, they release their hold, leave the head sinuses and pass into the nasal cavity from which they are expelled by the violent sneezing which their movements provoke. The grubs then seek out a refuge in loose ground or under debris in which they pass into a passive or pupal stage, this requires a period of 3 to 8 weeks, after which the adult flies emerge. These are somewhat like hairy overgrown house flies. Although capable at times of swift darting flight, nose-flies as a rule are sluggish in their habits and do not travel far from their point of origin. They are most active in hot dry weather which is the time used by the female fly to deposit her progeny on the noses of sheep. When this has been achieved the minute grubs crawl along the nasal cavity into the head sinuses where they settle for a period of growth extending over about ten months.

The presence of nose flies produces great restlessness and excitement among the sheep. They crowd together with their heads held low in attempts to avoid the flies. Sometimes they scatter widly in all directions. They press their noses to the ground or strike out with their fore-legs in attempts to drive off the flies. Such disturbance is bad for fattening sheep and their progress may be considerably retarded.

Owing to the inaccessible location of nose grubs little can be done in the way of treatment of sheep already infested. The question of prevention is more favorable though this too is not entirely satisfactory. The method usually advocated is the use of fly repellant in the form of pine tar. In small flocks this may be applied to the sheeps' noses at frequent intervals during the summer months when the flies are active. In larger flocks the use of salt logs is advised. These are logs in which a series of three inch holes are bored. The holes are part filled with salt and the margins of the holes smeared with pine tar. In place of the logs narrow troughs may be used. A burlap pad soaked with pine tar is fixed to the back of the trough in such a manner that the sheep brush their noses with tar when reaching for the salt.

## URGE BREEDING OF BETTER HORSES FOR WORK ON FARMS

NOTWITHSTANDING the keen competition between the horse and the tractor, the horse unquestionably still has a place on the farm, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The majority of farms in Pennsylvania raise only a colt or two; however, it is just as easy to raise good colts, as it is to raise scrubs and far more profitable. It is true that the initial cost of a good breeding mare is slightly more, but she will soon compensate for that higher cost by the extra work that she can do.

A good breeding mare will do her share of the work and at the same time produce a good colt, if she is handled properly and the small farmer is the one who is most likely to get the best results because he usually works his own teams and is in a position to watch them closely and see that they are not ill treated.

The selection of a sire is the most important single step for either good or bad influence in the whole operation. Nothing but a purebred sire should be considered. As an individual, he should be just what is desired in his get, of the right type, good conformation and sound.

The Pennsylvania Stallion Law requires that any person, firm, or company standing or traveling any stallion or jack for public service in this Commonwealth are required to obtain a license from the Bureau of Animal Industry, of the Department of Agriculture.

Only the owners of registered stallions and jacks can obtain a license. The owner of a licensed stallion is required to display his license certificate in a conspicuous place. For the benefit of the mare owners, a license certifies to the true condition of soundness and conformation, specifying such unsoundness or interior conformation as may exist.

In 1940 there were 438 stallion licenses issued, as compared with 453 in 1939.

## ROOT CROPS MARKET IS REPORTED DULL

THE mild temperatures in Pennsylvania during the latter half of December and during the forepart of January were not favorable to vegetables in storage, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture.

It is also stated that marketings of beets from the Bucks-Philadelphia area are light.

Carrots are moving fairly well with prices comparatively low. Condition and quality of the storage crop in the Bucks-Philadelphia area are generally good.

Rutabagas and turnips are plentiful in Bucks County. Some white turnips sprouted badly in storage on account of the warm weather. Parsnips of good quality are being sold, but markets continue dull on all root crops. Bunched celery marketings from the southeastern counties are declining.

## ISSUE WARNING FOR LICENSE RENEWALS

LATEST reports show that the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture has issued 2,965 oleomargarine, 2,895 bakery and 1,138 ice cream licenses for 1941. The 1940 licenses having expired December 31, manufacturers of baked goods and ice cream and manufacturers of and dealers in oleomargarine, who have not renewed their licenses are being warned that they are not permitted under the law to operate in these lines of businesses without a 1941 license.

## MORE WHEAT STORED ON FARMS IN STATE

STOCKS of wheat on farms in this State on January 1 are reported by the Department of Agriculture to have totalled 7,516,000 bushels as compared with 6,992,000 bushels on that date last year.

The amount of corn on Pennsylvania farms the first of this year was 31,038,000 bushels as compared with 32,669,000 bushels on that date the year previously. Stocks of oats amounted to 20,824,000 bushels on January 1 as compared with 16,553,000 bushels last year on that date.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## HIGH RECORDS MADE BY PENNA. PULLETS IN ROP TRAPNESTING

EIGHTEEN Pennsylvania poultrymen entered a total of 4,888 pullets in nome Record of Performance trapsting under supervision of the Pennsylnia Department of Agriculture for the ar 1939-40, and 2,247 or 46 percent of ese pullets qualified with official ords. Of this total entry 3,698 Single Comb White Leghorns produced 1,751 or 7.4 percent qualified birds having an verage production of 246.5 eggs per bird, an average egg weight of 25.9 nces per dozen, and an average body eight of 4.3 pounds per bird; 727 Barred ymouth Rocks produced 297 or 40.9 rcent qualified birds having an average oduction of 238.2 eggs per bird, and verage egg weight of 25.8 ounces per zen, and an average body weight of 8 pounds per bird; and 463 New Hampires produced 199 or 43 percent quali- d birds having an average production 240.8 eggs per bird, an average egg ight of 26.2 ounces per dozen, and an erage body weight of 6 pounds per bird. The individual bird having the highest icial record was a 4.6 pound Single mb White Leghorn which produced 8 eggs averaging 25.3 ounces per dozen. e highest Barred Plymouth Rock was 6 pound bird which produced 305 eggs eraging 24.7 ounces per dozen. The hest New Hampshire was a 5.5 pound d which produced 311 eggs averaging 3 ounces per dozen.

A Single Comb White Leghorn flock d the highest percent of qualified birds all breeds and varieties, attaining 82.7 rcent. In the Barred Plymouth Rocks e highest flock had 69 percent qualified rds and in the New Hampshires the hest flock had 61 percent qualified rds.

Each pullet entered in official trapsting must produce 200 or more eggs eraging 24 or more ounces per dozen thin a year after the date of her first g in the trapnest, and her body weight st be within the requirement for the ed and variety as described in the erican Standard of Perfection. Pullets record receive unannounced inspecns throughout the year. In conjunction with the annual inspection, it is uired that a blood test for Pullorum ease be made of every bird on the mises by the Bureau of Animal Instry of the Department of Agriculture.

## UGGEST METHODS TO CONTROL FIELD MICE

FFORTS to control field mice can be carried on effectively during the nter months as well as during other sons of the year, according to the partment of Agriculture. There are o general groups of field mice, the adow mice which live at the surface d the ground and pine mice which live der ground.

Clean tillage and cultivation of weedy as are advised as a means of keeping ce under control by destroying their ding places. In the case of young it trees where cultivation is not possi- the removal of grass and weeds for a ce of 18 inches from the base of the e will help protect them from attack. en there is snow it should be tramped ly about the trees. Placing of tree tectors of wood veneer or wire cloth ut the tree trunks will provide proction. Repellant washes, consisting of ut one to seven lime sulphur have been found to be effective. Trapping y be resorted to where the area to be tected is small. About 15 to 20 traps acre, placed in the runways and either ted with grain or unbaited will greatly uce the number of mice in a few ks. It is stated that perhaps the most ective large scale control operation is t of the use of poison bait.

## PA. THIRD IN VALUE OF '40 APPLE CROP

LTHOUGH Pennsylvania ranks fourth among the states of this ntry in the production of apples, it ked third among the states in the ue of the 1940 crop, according to figs compiled by the Department of riculture. The crop totalled 10,998,000 hels and the value is placed at 280,000.

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## TREND DOWNWARD IN PENNA. FARM WAGES

A SLIGHT downward trend in farm wage rates in this State during the three month period from October 1 to January 1 is noted in reports to the Department of Agriculture. This is attributed to the fact that the supply and demand figures have followed the same relative trend which is the normal seasonal condition.

On January 1 the monthly wage rate with board was $27 as compared with $28.25 on October 1 and the comparative rates without board on those dates were $42.75 and $43. The day rate with board on January 1 was $1.70 and without board, $2.30 as compared with $1.85 and $2.35 on October 1.

The supply as percentage of normal on January 1 was 82 percent; the demand as percentage of normal, 88 percent and the supply as percentage of demand, 93 percent as compared with 80 percent, 90 percent and 89 percent on October 1.

## "FLU" IS MENACE TO POULTRY INDUSTRY

WHAT is commonly known as "flu" is said by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture to be one of the most serious diseases confronting the poultry industry. The scientific name is infectious laryngetracheitis, which as the name implies is a disease involving the respiratory tract, particularly the larynx and trachea.

The disease has been recognized within the past 10 years. Chickens and possibly pheasants are the only fowls which are seriously affected. It attacks birds of any age and causes the greatest losses during the colder months of the year.

Affected birds gasp and extend or stretch their heads forward with marked expulsive efforts, suggesting a cough, and frequently expel bloody material. A watery discharge from the eye may be the first noticeable symptom of the disease. Breathing becomes difficult and there is often a gurgling sound in the throat. Death due to suffocation usually occurs in a few days. The disease is highly contagious and frequently spreads rapidly in the flock. The mortality rate is high.

Birds which recover have been known to become carriers of the disease.

At the present time there is said to be no satisfactory method of treatment, although some measure of relief for affected birds may be had by confining them in a heated house. It is suggested that efforts be directed largely to prevent the spread of the disease where it occurs, by quarantine or slaughter.

## 2,961 DOG LICENSES ISSUED IN MONTH

THE Department of Agriculture issued 2,961 individual dog licenses during the month of December according to the report of Secretary John H. Light. During that period there were 114 prosecutions for violations of the dog law, 1,889 stray and uncontrolled dogs were killed by police officers and 43 stray dogs were killed by the agents of the department.

## NEW POTATO DISEASE MAY BECOME SERIOUS REPORTS INDICATE

BACTERIAL ring rot, the new disease of potatoes, shows signs of becoming a serious menace to the potato growing industry, according to the Department of Agriculture. Within the past few years it has appeared in many of the producing areas in Pennsylvania and in most of the other principal potato growing states. In some states losses have apparently been much more serious than in Pennsylvania.

It is believed that the organism is established in the seed but diseased tubers readily contaminate containers, tools and equipment so that the latter may become important means of spreading the disease. Tests show that the cutting knife after being used to cut a single infected tuber may pass the disease to at least the next ten healthy tubers cut with the same knife. That would seem to indicate it is said that a lot of seed potatoes carrying 10% infection may after cutting and handling in the usual manner, carry the possibility of 100% diseased plants in the crop produced from such seed. However, it has been found that the planting of whole tubers may reduce the amount of disease by two thirds as compared to cut seed.

Seed treatment has shown little benefit as a control, although the use of one or two chemicals in limited tests, resulted in some reduction in percent of disease. Study of the reaction of different varieties to ring rot has apparently not been carried far enough to determine if there are resistant or immune sorts as is the case with certain other plant diseases. It is known, however, that at least most of the more commonly grown varieties are susceptible.

Seeing the risk to potato growing in Pennsylvania which the presence of the disease may represent and since the use of infected seed appears to be the most important source of trouble, the Department of Agriculture has in its seed certifying service adopted the policy of refusing to certify any fields of potatoes grown on farms where ring rot has appeared. It is known that a comparatively small amount of disease in the seed may result in as much as 50 percent loss at harvest time. It is felt, therefore, that in certifying potatoes for use as seed there should be no evidence of the disease.

Growers are cautioned that seed potatoes produced in Pennsylvania are not fully certified unless there is attached to the bag a blue or red tag issued by the Department of Agriculture to the grower whose name appears on the tag.

It is stated that indications are that the disease may become one of the most serious menaces to profitable potato growing which growers have faced in years. It is suggested that the greatest amount of protection will likely come through the precautions taken by the grower in selection of seed and in protecting it from contamination until planting is completed.

## INSPECTION MADE OF ALL PENNA. BAKERIES

INSPECTION of every bakery in this State has been completed by the agents of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light announced today. A total of approximately 3,500 such establishments are in operation, and licenses to each one have been issued.

The law requires any establishment which produces baked goods in which 50 pounds or more of flour is used in one week to be licensed. It is necessary that all employes have health certificates. Inspections also cover general cleanliness and sanitation, the wrapping of baked goods and possible adulteration.

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A total of 133 claims for damages to livestock and poultry by dogs were investigated and appraised by Department agents and a total of $2,025.29 was paid by the State in settlement of those claims.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as second-class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office at Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900.

John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 Harrisburg, February 20, 1941 No. 8

## LABORATORY TESTS DURING PAST YEAR BREAK ALL RECORDS

ALL previous records were shattered last year in the number of specimens examined at the Laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, according to the report of Secretary John H. Light. The number of specimens examined totalled 1,257,710, representing an increase of 153,837 specimens, or approximately 14 percent over the 1939 figure, which was the previous high mark.

The report shows that practically all of the increase is represented by the greater number of tests for Bang's Disease in cattle which accounted for a total of 612,317 of all specimens examined. Tests for pullorum disease headed the list with a total of 640,555 of all fowls of which 630,843 were for chickens. The total represents an increase of 1,429 over the previous year. A total of 470 examinations were made for rabies of which 177 were shown to be positive.

The growth of the laboratory service is shown by figures giving the number of specimens examined annually at five year intervals as follows: 1920, 3,411 specimens; 1925, 31,256 specimens; 1930, 313,698 specimens; 1935, 709,316 specimens. The wide extent of the operations of the laboratory service is seen from the fact that during the last year specimens were examined from at least 10 miscellaneous materials and 28 species of animals and fowls consisting mostly of cattle, horses, mules, swine, sheep, goats, elk, deer, dogs, cats, foxes, mink, rats, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowls, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, quail, swans, canaries and humans.

In commenting on the report Secretary Light stated that "The increase in this work has been due to the development of special kinds of service through the establishment of basic knowledge as a result of research, which also should necessarily be continued in the proper directions to serve the best interests of the live stock industry, providing a basis for future activity and growth in useful service to the industry.

"The extent of the growth of this work proves its tremendous importance and an assurance of still greater advance is given through continued and extended research involving communicable diseases."

## NO CONCERN IS FELT OVER POTATO SUPPLY

THE supply of potatoes of the 1940 crop remaining on Pennsylvania farms to be sold before next summer is larger than usual, but according to Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light, is not great enough to cause alarm. The government report of Pennsylvania stocks on hand January 1 showed 2,238,000 bushels, half a million more than a year ago, but only slightly larger than the crops of 1935 and 1937 remaining to be sold on January 1, 1936 and 1938.

The Secretary advises that the present movement of potatoes into consumption is quite rapid and that an acceleration rather than a decline may be expected, since consumer purchasing power is increasing. A recent survey of all principal potato producing sections of the state shows the marketing of potatoes is rapid enough to complete the movement before warm weather, if the present rate of sale is continued.

Growers and shippers of the bulk of supplies in such important potato counties as Lehigh, Lancaster, York, Columbia, Northampton, Somerset, Potter, Cambria and Erie advise that the present movement is encouraging and that remaining stocks on hand should be completed before the normal storing season closes.

## 123 GROWERS MAKE TEN-TON TOMATO CLUB

OF the 206 tomato growers from 21 counties who registered for demonstrations to determine production per acre in an effort to qualify for membership in the Ten-Ton Tomato Club, 123 growers qualified during the past season. Lancaster county led the list with 47 growers out of the 71 entered. In Bucks county, however, 33 of the 34 growers qualified.

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## FARMS, EQUIPMENT SHOW INVESTMENT OF NEARLY ONE BILLION

AGRICULTURE in Pennsylvania has an investment of nearly one billion dollars in land, buildings, implements and machinery alone, according to figures just released by the United States Census Bureau. As of April 1, 1940 there were 169,027 farms in this State which showed a total value of $864,199,795 for farm land and buildings. The value of the buildings alone was placed at $500,862,289 and the value of farm implements and machinery is given as $129,099,593. The number of farms showed a decrease of 22,257 below the number shown in the census of January 1, 1935. The average number of acres per farm, however, increased from 82.9 on that date to 86.3 on April 1, last year.

The total acreage of the farms is 14,594,134 which is classified according to use as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cropland harvested, acres | 6,097,116 |
| Crop failure | 115,989 |
| Cropland, idle or fallow | 988,418 |
| Plowable pasture | 2,038,636 |
| All woodland | 2,935,766 |
| All other | 2,418,209 |

## INCREASE REPORTED IN GOAT INDUSTRY

A MARKED increase in the goat industry in this State is reported by the Department of Agriculture and inquiries being received by the Department indicate a constantly wider interest in the development of milk goat herds. At the present time there are 109 herds comprising 1,223 goats which have been tuberculin tested and 103 herds comprising 805 goats which have been tested for Bang's disease. Most of these herds are located in the Eastern section of the State where they are in close proximity to the large city markets where the demand for goat's milk is greatest.

The principal breeds of milk goats are the Toggenburg, Saanen, Nubian and Alpine. The Toggenburg is the most numerous of the breeds of milk goats in this country. The goats are brown in color with a white stripe on each side of the face, the legs below the knees are white and a marked characteristic of the breed are two wattles attached to the under side of the neck. A doe of that breed holds an Advanced Registry record of 2,759 pounds of milk and 100.62 pounds of butter fat in 10 months.

The Saanen is the largest in size of the Swiss breeds, is white in color and is naturally hornless. The world's record of 4,161.7 pounds of milk and 138.5 pounds of butter fat in nine months and eight days in an official Advanced Registry test is held by a doe of that breed.

The Nubian breed has been developed from crossing Nubian bucks from Africa with English does and is considered to have many favorable points as a family doe. The breed is tall in size, generally hornless and varies in color. The milk is rich in quality compensating for the larger volume given by other breeds. The official Advanced Registry test for the breed is 13.5 pounds of milk and 5.2 percent butter fat per day during test. The breed is usually referred to as the Jersey of the goat family. The French Alpine was recently imported from France and is considered to be a uniform and persistent milker.

## ADVISES FARMERS TO BEGIN SELECTION OF SEEDS FOR SPRING

"ALTHOUGH there may be plenty of Winter weather still ahead of us, it is not too early for the farmer to give thought to one of his most important problems, the selection of good seed for planting this Spring," Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has suggested. In discussing the matter, he recalled the admonition "when buying seed be sure you do not buy a crop failure."

The Secretary pointed out that in the testing and analyzing of many samples of seeds annually the Department has a good opportunity to judge of the quality of seeds, both those produced by the farmer himself and those offered by seed dealers. The farmer, he stated, naturally has reasons to have confidence in seed grown on his own farm, yet many disappointments are recorded from lack of care in selecting, cleaning and curing home grown seed. The matter of germinating in corn and even oats, barley and wheat due to freezing or heating in the shock, sheaf or bin, is frequently overlooked and with the smaller seeds such as clovers and timothy, the problem of weed seeds is ever present, Secretary Light pointed out.

As the result of reports indicating considerable soft corn last season, the farmer is urged to have his seed tested for germination since high moisture content in the Fall is fatal to germination if the seed corn is allowed to freeze before it is thoroughly dried out. "Judging by the extent to which Hybrid corn was planted in Pennsylvania the last year or two, it may be unnecessary to call attention to the fact that new seed must be secured each year," Secretary Light stated, "but extreme care should also be taken in the selection of the variety to make sure it is adapted to the conditions where it is planted. The reliability of the seed source is also important to insure that one gets the variety ordered. Regarding these points, the County Agricultural Agent is the best source of information."

"I believe," Secretary Light continued, "that the market or vegetable gardener has much greater hazards to contend with in the purchase of seeds than has the general farmer. There are so many different kinds of vegetables, and in some cases, such a multitude of varieties, that unless the grower is sure of his seedsman, or sows his own seed, he is headed for frequent disappointment. Occasionally, new and improved varieties appear in the seed catalogues, but the successful grower always tries these out in a small way first or profits by the experience of others who have tested them thoroughly before planting them on a large scale.

"I wish again to remind farmers and vegetable growers that the Department of Agriculture maintains a certification service for seed potatoes, seed oats, barley, wheat and tomatoes. The object of this service is to create a home-grown supply of varieties of these crops which are known to be well adapted to Pennsylvania conditions. All certified seed must pass rigid field and laboratory inspection standards; be free from weed seeds and other crop seeds; free from diseases; show standard weight per bushel in the case of grains and be free from varietal mixtures. Particular attention is given to really new varieties of superior quality recently developed or introduced.

"Those desiring information concerning this service should address the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg."

## LIVESTOCK DEALERS MUST HAVE LICENSE

THE Department of Agriculture has issued a warning that if any livestock dealer is engaging in business without a 1941 license he is violating the Livestock Dealers Act and subject to a fine ranging from $25 to $100 and costs. Livestock dealers licenses expire on the last day of each year.

## SPINACH LOOKS GOOD

WINTERED-OVER spinach in the Eastern section is reported to be looking favorable. There is ample moisture but temperatures have been too low for the plants to start growth.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 Harrisburg, February 27, 1941 No. 9

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## SUGGEST EFFORTS BE MADE IN SPRING TO CONTROL CORN BORER

IN view of the heavy damage caused last year to the corn crop in this State by the European corn borer, the Department of Agriculture is strongly urging that community effort be made to control the insect this year. It is pointed out that the most practical effort which can be made is to clean up all corn refuse before May 1 through which borer broods can be destroyed.

This practice will be particularly effective in areas where there is only the one-generation borer. That area is West of the first or second row of counties in the Southeastern part of the State or about the Western nine-tenths of the State. In the Eastern area where the double brooded strains predominate, the clean-up process should include all thick stemmed weeds which serve as food plants for the last brood of the borer.

It is felt that only a community effort will serve the best purpose and that the work be done in early Spring. Unless some effort is made it is suggested that serious damage may result to the corn crop again this year as surveys show that the borer built up a high population in both the Eastern and Western sections.

In counties in the East, particularly those along the Delaware River, the double generation borer occurs, which means that the first generation attacks early planted sweet corn and after completing its growth in that plant the worms undergo a change and later emerge as parent moths about August 1 and lay another lot of eggs on late potatoes and various other thick stemmed plants. These eggs hatch into worms and it was these worms that entered into the count made last Fall.

In a few townships in some of the counties that border the Delaware, particularly the Southern counties, the infestation ran as high as 97 per cent of the stalks infested and as high as 14 borers in a single stalk Presence of 14 borers in a stalk is sufficient to cause considerable damage and to cause the stalk to break before the ear of corn reaches maturity

In the central part of the state, mostly in Centre County, the borer population increased to a point where as high as 60 per cent of the stalks were infested with borers and as many as 6 borers were found in a single stalk. Breaking of stalk due to the presence of borers was found in several fields. In the western counties, particularly in the northwestern part of the state, infestation was as high in some fields as 97 stalks out of 100 and the number of borers in a single stalk ran to as high as 23. In several of the fields surveyed, broken stalks were common. Where the number of borers exceeds two or three per stalk the growth of the corn is so hindered that the ears do not properly mature.

The corn borer was also found somewhat numerous in other counties where previous heavy infestations were not known. This was true in Armstrong County and parts of Huntingdon County.

## POTATO CONSUMPTION DOWN IN PHILA. AREA

SHIPMENTS of potatoes to the Philadelphia area decreased nearly 90 cars or approximately 5 percent from 1939 to 1940, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Nearly 25 percent of the potatoes received in that area were produced on Pennsylvania farms. Maine and New Jersey were the next in importance as sources of supply. New York and Idaho also furnished late-crop tubers while Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North and South Carolina and Florida furnished most of the early crop.

## I R PEN LEADING IN OFFICIAL CONTEST

During the 9th week of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest production was 61.66 percent with a total of 4221 eggs for the entire period or an average of 82 eggs per bird. There are 4927 birds competing. For that week the leading pen was one of Barred Plymouth Rocks with a production of 77 eggs. The leading pen to date is one of Rhode Island Reds with a total production of 1355 eggs, or an average of about 104 eggs per bird.

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## 1180 NURSERIES ARE CERTIFIED IN PENNA.

THE 1940 nursery inspection report of the Department of Agriculture is now available, Secretary John H. Light has announced. The bulletin lists all resident nurserymen, collectors, dealers in nursery stock and growers of bramble plants who have qualified for certification up to December 1, 1940. However, since that date there have been certified 19 additional nurseries and an additional number of dealers and collectors, bringing the total to 1,180 nurserymen and other resident plant growers who have qualified to offer stock for sale to the public during the current certificate year ending September 30, 1941. The publication shows that approximately 10,000 acres are devoted to the production of fruit and ornamental stock in this State.

In surveying the work of the past year Secretary Light stated that "insect pests continue to be the most important factor so far as inspection work is concerned. However, it has been observed frequently by our inspectors during the past season that nursery pests were less prevalent than during other recent years. We are inclined to believe that much of this improvement was due to the greater vigilance on the part of the nurserymen."

"So far as insects are concerned there are still some of the old-timers which continue to figure prominently as nursery pests. Of these, the oyster shell scale and various wood borers are the most prominent. However, juniper scale is reported as heading the list of infestations uncovered. Other scale, such as the bagworm, lace fly and spruce gall aphids have been reported frequently during the past season. A point of interest is that of the 10 or 15 injurious insects most frequently found in nurseries at the present time, at least half of them were scarcely known or were not considered real nursery pests 10 or 15 years ago. This fact shows the importance of the nurserymen being constantly on the lookout for new pests and of learning of their control before they become sufficiently abundant to cause material damage.

## SWEET CORN ACREAGE WAS GREATEST IN '40

FIGURES just released by the Department of Agriculture show that 13,306,406 pounds of corn for canning were inspected on the basis of the U. S. Grades under state inspection during 1940, from the largest acreage of corn contracted on the basis of grades since this method of purchase started in 1935. During 1939, with fewer acres under contract, corn canners in the state purchased 15,592,845 pounds of inspected corn. The decreased yield in 1940 was due to adverse weather conditions.

According to Secretary John H. Light this method of purchasing corn is meeting with greater approval of both growers and canners each year, and that an increased acreage of inspected corn will be contracted for this year. By this method of purchase growers of high quality receive premium prices, processors receive higher average quality and fewer culls and are able to furnish consumers with higher quality canned corn.

## CHANGES IN RULES GOVERNING SHIPMENT OF CATTLE PROPOSED

A PROPOSED change in the regulations governing the shipment of livestock into this State has been announced by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture.

Under the proposal all cattle for dairy and breeding purposes; feeder cows, heifers, bulls and calves may be imported into Pennsylvania provided they come directly from:

A.—Herds accredited as Bang Disease Free or herds in Modified Accredited Bang Disease Free Areas in which all animals in the herd over six months of age were negative to an official test for Bang Disease within 12 months of entry and the individuals for entry were negative to an official test within 30 days of the date of shipment.

This is a modification of the present ruling which permits the shipment of cattle only from certified herds. A herd is certified only after each individual animal has successfully passed two tests covering a period of one year.

B.—Herds under Federal and State supervision for the control of Bang Disease in which all animals in the herd over six months of age were negative to an official test within three months of entry and the individuals were negative to an official test within 30 days of the date of shipment, such test not to be applied within 30 days of the date of the previous herd test.

Feeder bulls of beef breeds may be imported if they were negative to an official test for Bang Disease immediately prior to the date of shipment; or they may be imported without a blood test for Bang Disease provided they are billed to the public stockyards at Lancaster or Pittsburgh where a blood sample shall be collected from each animal by an approved veterinarian at the owner's expense and forwarded to the Laboratory of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Animal Industry for test. Such bulls if negative to a test for Bang Disease are not eligible to enter any herd or quarantined area under supervision for the control of Bang Disease and must be slaughtered within a period of 15 months after the date of entry.

Cattle vaccinated as calves under official supervision may be imported provided they are negative to an official blood test prior to entry.

All cattle must be accompanied by health certificates approved by the proper livestock regulatory officials of the state of origin. The certificate shall be sent to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Animal Industry at Harrisburg before arrival of cattle at destination. Cattle brought into Pennsylvania as free from Bang Disease shall not be confined in any public stock yard or sale stable unless they are segregated in cleaned and disinfected quarters to prevent their exposure to infected cattle or contaminated premises.

## ADVISE PIG FEEDING IF SOW BECOMES ILL

SPECIAL attention is urged by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture for farrowing sows and little pigs. It is suggested that frequently if the weather is extremely cold and the hog pen is not warm, it may be necessary to remove the little pigs to a warm building. Should the sow become affected with what is commonly known as "milk fever," which occasionally occurs, it would be necessary to remove the pigs and feed them as orphan pigs. They should receive approximately one half pint of warm milk daily divided into four feedings. The pans used for the purpose should be sterilized after each feeding.

In such cases the suggested formula is one pound of whole cow's milk, one pound of lime water, one fourth pound separator cream and one eighth pound sugar, preferably milk sugar. The formula may be gradually altered so that when the pigs are approximately three weeks old, whole cow's milk may be fed and later a small amount of grain may be mixed with the liquid feed.

An orphan pig does not gain materially in weight during the first 10 days. After that time gradual growth should be recorded.

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## NUMBER OF FARMS IN PA. SHOWS DECLINE STARTING IN 1900

ANALYSIS of the census figures being released by the United States Census Bureau shows a steady decline in the number of farms in this State since about 1900 and in farm acreage since about 1880 when the peaks are believed to have been reached. In 1900 the total number of farms was 224,248 and the total amount of land in the farms in 1880 was 19,791,341 acres as compared with 169,027 farms and 14,594,134 acres on April 1 of last year. The latter figure compares with 191,284 farms on January 1, 1935 and 172,419 farms and 15,309,485 acres on April 1, 1930. The period from 1930 to 1935 was the only one in which an increase was shown and this is attributed to the depression years when a return to farming received great impetus, but the decline during the next five years more than offset the previous gain.

In spite of this decrease, however, the value of land and buildings showed an increase during the years from 1935 to 1940 of nearly two and one half million dollars, the value on April 1, 1940 having been $864,199,795. This figure on the other hand shows a decided shrinkage from that of April 1, 1930 when the land and building value was placed at 1,203,017,645. That value is figured, however, according to the inflationary values which prevailed at that time. The value of implements and machinery is placed at $129,099,593 as of April 1 last year as compared with $154,756,206 on April 1, 1930 the last previous date upon which those values were computed.

There is less idle or fallow crop land, according to the figures, the total of April 1, 1940 having been 988,418 acres as compared with 1,079,140 in 1929. The crop land harvested showed a decrease during that same period from 6,587,707 acres in 1929 to 6,097,116 last April. Plowable pasture land showed an increase from 1,779,305 in 1929 to 2,038,636 last year and during that same period the number of acres in woodland on the farms decreased from 3,363,315 to 2,935,766. The average size of farms in Pennsylvania varied to some extent, having been 86.3 acres last year, 82.9 in 1935, 88.8 in 1930, 81.3 in 1925 and 78.3 in 1920.

The tendency toward decline in the number of farms in this State is the tendency in the country as a whole, the figures showing that there were 6,096,789 farms in 1940, 6,812,350 in 1935, 6,288,648 in 1930 and 6,371,640 in 1925. The tendency is reversed, however, in the amount of all land in the farms, showing 1,060,507,355 acres in 1940; 1,054,-[illegible]5,111 in 1935; 986,771,016 in 1930; and [illegible]4,319,352 in 1925. The size of the average farm in the United States has increased from 133.7 acres in 1925 to 173.9 in 1940.

## DEPT. FOOD AGENTS MAKE SPECIAL DRIVE

DURING the past two weeks agents of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture have been engaged in addition to their regular duties, in the systematic collection of specified food products for analyses for the purpose of determining if there are any law violations in the marketing of those products. Each agent in his territory has been procuring samples from the various sources where they are sold to the public and forwarding them for analysis to the department laboratory and the consulting chemists.

The products specified for this effort are pure olive oil, sausage, frankfurters, smoked meats, butter, milk, cream, oysters, flour and cereals and canned fruits.

Through these efforts a two-fold service is rendered the public, it being determined through analysis that foods do not contain any ingredients which are detrimental to health and at the same time developing whether the products comply with the State food laws in the matter of being of the quality represented.

## INCOME FROM FOWL

TURKEYS raised in Pennsylvania during 1939 provided a cash income of $2,783,000 according to figures of the Department of Agriculture. Chickens accounted for $15,282,000 of the total farm cash income.

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## EGG PRODUCTION IN STATE SHOWS LARGE INCREASE IN JAN.

EGG production by Pennsylvania farm flocks in January was 178 million eggs as compared with 153 millions in January last year and 149 million eggs in December, 1940, according to the report issued by the Department of Agriculture. The number of layers showed a decrease from 15,570,000 a year ago to 15,440,000 last month, recording an increase from 9.8 to 11.5 in the monthly number of eggs per layer. The monthly number of eggs per layer throughout the country was 8.7.

A considerable increase is reported in the production of hatchery chicks during the past month over the figures of a year ago. It is being urged that special care be exercised in the purchase of baby chicks and that the proved production ability of parent stock be given the merited consideration.

Under the program of the Department of Agriculture breeding flocks are standardized and official tests are made for pullorum disease. During the past six months more than 450 flocks and hatcheries in this State have participated in the Standardization program, under which each bird in those flocks has been individually selected by an authorized inspector for breed type and egg production. Those birds have also been tested for pullorum disease. Each bird is identified with an official leg band issued through the department and matings are made to furnish the best results. These birds are placed in the Supervised and Certified classifications with the latter being a higher classification due to the fact that the females are more closely selected and are mated to male birds produced from females that have official records of 200 or more eggs in a 365 day trapnest period.

There is also the Record of Performance program under which the Department supervises selection of male birds for certified matings and also by means of special selection provides males and females in individual matings to produce foundation breeding stock. The females in the special matings must have produced 200 or more eggs averaging 24 ounces per dozen in one year from the time of laying the first egg.

A list of names and addresses of flock and hatchery owners who are cooperating in this program is available to anyone interested. Requests should be sent to the Department of Agriculture.

## URGE SELECTION OF GOOD NURSERY STOCK

WITH the approach of Spring and planting time, the Department of Agriculture urges that particular attention be paid to the purchase of nursery stock and plants to avoid possible disappointment in the effort to beautify the home surroundings. It is stated that if good stock is procured and properly cared for chances of it not growing well are remote.

The best sources are from nearby nurseries and where opportunity is afforded to make selections from which the transplanting can be done before the roots are dried out. There are more than one thousand nurseries in this State all of which have been certified by the Department.

## HOGS SHOW HEAVY DECLINE ON FARMS IN PA. DURING '40

TOTAL combined farm inventory numbers of the five species of livestock—horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs—on Pennsylvania farms January 1, 1941 were two percent less than on January 1, 1940, according to the report of the Department of Agriculture. The decline was shared by all species, except cattle which showed no change from a year previous. Horses and mules were each down four percent, hogs down seven percent, and sheep down one percent.

Aggregate farm inventory value of the five livestock species reflects a decline of about 0.3 percent from the January 1, 1940 value and about 2.7 percent from the January 1, 1939 value. Work stock declined $12.00 per head from the beginning to the close of 1940, and the decline in total value was roughly five and one half million dollars. Sheep increased 10 cents per head, and hogs declined 30 cents per head. Only cattle reflected gains per head and in total value an increase of over $5,700,000.

The decrease in number of work stock during 1940 was more than double what it was in 1939. The number of horses is roughly one-half the number in 1914 and the number of mules the lowest since that date. Stallions registered in 1940 by the Department of Agriculture numbered 438, compared with 453 in 1939 and 447 in 1938. There has been no increase in the number of young stock in the last three inventories. A marked increase in farm tractor sales during the year was reported.

The number of cattle and calves on farms at the start of the current year, the same as on January 1, 1940, is the largest since 1920 and milk cows, which increased one percent during the year, the largest number since 1923. Compared with a year ago, there are fewer heifers and heifer calves for milk, and a slight increase in steers.

The number of hogs declined seven percent during 1940, but except for January 1, 1940, it is still the highest since 1929. The 1940 Spring and Fall pig crops were almost 100,000 head below the 1939 crops and sows farrowing this spring (December 1, '40-June 1, '41) are indicated to be only four-fifths the number farrowed last spring.

The number of sheep continues to decline for the fifth consecutive year, and now shares with 1927 the lowest level on record. It is estimated that in 1867 there were close to three million sheep on farms in this State.

The number of chickens declined four percent and turkeys ten percent during 1940. Intended purchases of baby chicks show from a recent survey an increase of seven percent over purchases of 1940. Part of the increase may be due to a continuance of the trend to buy more chicks and hatch fewer on farms. The February 1 hatchery report indicates that a considerably larger number of baby chicks will be hatched this season than last. The number of eggs set was 21 percent larger and the number of chicks hatched 22 percent greater than in January a year ago.

## PA. MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES UPTREND

MILK production per cow in herds kept by Pennsylvania crop correspondents on February 1 averaged 16.4 pounds, the highest February 1 average since 1931 according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The increase of .2 pound over January 1 was largely attributed to a combination of milk weather in southern and southeastern areas and heavy rations of grain being fed to cows throughout the State.

## 12,170 TONS OF CHERRIES PRODUCED IN PENNSYLVANIA

THE value of the cherry crop in Pennsylvania in 1939 was $701,000 according to the Department of Agriculture. The number of trees was placed at 861,064, seventy-nine percent of which were in bearing. The production was 12,170 tons.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## EXPECT INCREASE IN CONTRACTED ACREAGE FOR CANNERY CROPS

PRESENT indications are that the canning industry will contract for a considerable increase in acreage in this State this year as compared with 1940, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. This is also seen as the tendency in practically all the States where canning products are grown.

It is believed that the contracted acreage will be spread over a wider area, including a greater number of small growers as the result of possible shortages of labor during the harvest seasons. It is considered probable that in some cases the larger growers may reduce their acreage in some products, fearing to chance dependence upon a large labor supply at harvest time. This it is believed may be the case particularly with those growers nearer the metropolitan areas where there is easy access to defense work.

The production of farm products for canning or processing has become the fastest growing agricultural enterprise in this State. As recently as 1924 vegetables for canning were grown on only 7,740 acres of Pennsylvania farm lands. Compared with the 41,040 acres devoted to canning crops in 1940 this is an increase of 425 percent in 16 years or at a rate in excess of 100 percent every four years. In addition to this substantial increase in vegetable canning, the processing of apples, apple products, cherries, mushrooms and many other specialty products such as soups, condiments, jellies and preserves, has also increased rapidly in recent years. That this growth in the production of canning crops may be expected to continue is evidenced by recent cannery expansions, by numerous new locations for cannery and quick freeze operations recently acquired or proposed and by the increasing purchase of canning crops of Pennsylvania growers from out-of-state processors.

During 1940, for the first year since 1933, the volume of canning crops inspected did not increase over the preceding year. However, grading actually showed an increase in 1940 over 1939 since inspectors were employed 2071 days at 55 inspection points compared with 1978 days worked at 51 points in 1939. Also acreages inspected in 1940 were increased over 1939 but yields declined sharply due to weather conditions and therefore volume inspected was less than in 1939. The 1941 season indicates, a possible increase of 20% in inspector stations over 1940, principal increases being in men required for the inspection of peas, corn, and tomatoes.

## DOG LICENSES SHOW BIG INCREASE IN '40

ENFORCEMENT of the dog law in Pennsylvania reached a new high during 1940 according to the report of Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, approximately 6,000 more dogs having been licensed than in any previous year since the enactment of the dog laws. During the past year licenses were issued for a total of 589,049 dogs, an increase of nearly 18,000 over the number of licenses issued during 1938.

Claims for damages to livestock and poultry which were killed or injured by dogs totalled 1,382 during the year and a total of $19,911.87 was paid in settlement of those claims. Police officers charged with the enforcement of the dog law killed and disposed of 27,341 stray dogs for which they were paid a fee of $1 for each animal.

That there was rigid enforcement of the law in all its phases is indicated by the fact that during 1940 there were 2,736 prosecutions in which a total of $14,454.05 was collected in fines, as compared with 2,[illegible] prosecutions during 1938.

In connection with the issuance of the report the Department has issued a warning to dog owners who have not yet secured licenses to do so at once, the 1940 licenses having expired January 15.

## CARROT SALES BETTER

MOVEMENT of old crop carrots from the Bucks-Philadelphia area during January was reported to be better than a year ago, but much stock remains in growers' storage. Little change in price reported.

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## FARM CASH INCOME UP OVER 9 MILLIONS

CASH income for the Pennsylvania farmer from all farm marketings during 1940 showed an increase of $9,768,000 over that of 1938 and an increase of $7,751,000 over 1939 according to reports of Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The total last year of all marketings is placed at $271,990,000 of which $80,001,000 was received from marketing crops and $191,989,000 was received from marketing livestock and livestock products.

In view of the fact that weather conditions the past season caused reductions in some crops in various sections of the State, the increased income indicates that a more advantageous scale of prices prevailed for some of the products. This is said to have been the case with some of the crops which went into cannery products.

## AUCTION EGG SALES REPORT GOOD PRICES

ACCORDING to the records of the Department of Agriculture a total of 354,239 cases of eggs were sold during 1940 at the five egg auctions conducted in this State, Secretary John H. Light has announced. The greatest number of sales were made at the Bucks County auction, where 91,278 cases were sold. The low figure was that of the Lehigh Valley auction where 53,733 cases were sold.

The total sales represent an increase of 31,160 cases over the number sold during 1939 and an increase of 265,767 cases over the sales of 1933, the first year in which all the auctions were in operation. During the two years previously four of the auctions were conducted. The markets are known as Bucks County, Butler Cooperative, Producers Cooperative Lehigh Valley and the Tri-County.

The compilation also gives the various grade prices of eggs during each of the 12 months at the principal markets, including New York and Philadelphia as compared with the prices at the auctions. It is shown that in practically every case the prices at the auctions in this State were considerably above those on the large city markets.

## BEGIN PRODUCTION OF PA. MAPLE SYRUP

THE annual flow of maple syrup has begun in this State according to reports to the Department of Agriculture, the principal producing area being located in Somerset County. Production and quality of product are an unknown quantity in that industry until the season is more advanced, it being impossible to make estimates along this line as the variations of the season are believed to play an important part in both the amount and quality of syrup produced.

Records show that there has been a continued decrease in production in this State over the past several years. The average number of trees tapped over the period from 1929 to 1938 was 650,000 but the number reported in 1939 had decreased to 522,000. Over the same 10-year period there was an annual average of 94,000 pounds of sugar made, but in 1939 the amount had decreased to 43,000 pounds.

## ADVISE PLANTING OF CERTIFIED SEED FOR BETTER OATS CROP

ALTHOUGH an average of more than 900,000 acres are annually planted to oats in this State, there is probably no grain crop to which so little attention is given to the seed source, according to the Department of Agriculture. In many areas of Pennsylvania the crop is not considered a profitable one to grow. It is used almost entirely as a feed crop and many farmers feed all the oats they grow so that when planting time arrives it is necessary for them to procure seed and in most cases they plant oats that were brought into the community for feeding purposes.

There is a tendency seen, however, on the part of the farmer to attach more importance to the type and quality of seed which is largely attributed to the inspection and certification efforts of the department. During 1940 the Department of Agriculture inspected a total of 586.5 acres of oats out of which it is expected that about 450 acres will be certified for seed purposes. This compares with 380.75 acres inspected and 166 acres certified during 1939. This increase is looked upon as encouraging although it will provide certified seed to plant only about 10,000 of the more than 900,000 acres devoted to oats.

The varieties certified this year are Cornellian, Lenroc and Patterson. However, all these varieties are not adapted to all sections of the State and it is suggested that information as to the variety best suited to certain localities be procured from the county farm agent.

According to tests conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service over a period of 15 years the Patterson variety outyielded other tested varieties. It is described as a medium season oats with good length of straw of fair strength, the kernel has light hull, medium in size and rather yellowish in color. It is said to be an excellent yielder in this State.

The purpose of the seed grain inspection for certification is to make available to the grain growers of Pennsylvania a source of local grown seed that is comparatively free from disease, mixture and noxious weeds and which is high in purity and shows good germination. Each year since the work was started has brought an increase in the number of applications for the service. Certification is accepted as the best method of insurance against certain kinds of crop losses and if certified seed is given the proper care will usually produce a better crop if growing conditions are favorable.

## INSPECT LICENSED EGG OPENING PLANTS

A SPECIAL inspection of the 12 licensed egg opening establishments in Philadelphia was recently conducted by food agents of the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with Federal food agents and representatives of the Philadelphia Department of Health. One of the places was not in operation and indications were that it had been closed for some time. Inspection was also made of a tannery egg yolk plant although those establishments do not require an operating license.

Samples of products were procured in some of the establishments and eggs were candled at all the places inspected to learn if there are law violations. The special inspection was in addition to the regular inspections which are made by the food agents of the department at various intervals.

## MARKET 66 PERCENT OF PA. POTATO CROP

SIXTY-SIX percent of 16,138,000 bushels of the 1940 Pennsylvania potato crop has been sold or is available for sale according to figures of the Department of Agriculture. The total production that year is placed at 24,570,000 bushels.

According to the report 1,720,000 bushels were fed to livestock and lost through shrinkage due to certain conditions following harvesting. A total of 4,392,000 bushels are reported to have been used and saved for use in the household of the farm where they were grown and 2,320,000 bushels were saved for seed on farms where they were grown.

The merchantable stocks on hand on January 1 amounted to 7,238,000 bushels as compared with 6,775,000 bushels on the comparable date, 1940.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## INCREASES SHOWN IN COWS, HEIFERS KEPT FOR MILK IN PENNA.

INDICATIONS are that the Pennsylvania farmer in line with the tendency throughout the country is looking upon dairying as offering greater advantages than other branches of general farming, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. This indication is seen in the fact that preliminary reports show that as of January 1 there was an increase of cows and heifers two years old and older on the farms in this State over the number of a year previous and was the highest since 1923. The number this year was 923,000 as compared with 914,000 in 1940 and an average of 882,000 for the years 1930 to 1939. The highest number was in 1923 when there were 925,000 cattle in those classes on the farms.

In spite of the increased number of cattle the per head value is above that of last year and is also greater than that of the previous 10-year average. This value on January 1 was placed at $80 or a total of $73,840,000 as compared with $76 or a total of $69,464,000 on January 1, 1940 and $68, as the average for the years 1930 to 1939, or a total of $59,372,000.

Increases in numbers, however, are not shown in heifers kept for milk. On January 1 the number from one to two years old was placed at 198,000 as compared with 206,000 on the comparable date in 1940, but this figure is considerably above the previous 10-year average which was 172,000. There is also a decrease shown in the number of heifer calves kept for milk, the number on January 1 being 196,000 as compared with 198,000 a year previous. The 10-year average from 1930 to 1939 was 182,000.

The number of all cattle and calves on Pennsylvania farms this year is reported to be the same as the total for last year which is 1,543,000. This compares with an average of 1,440,000 for the period from 1930 to 1939.

## VARIANCE SHOWN IN PRICES OF PRODUCTS

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products decreased six points during the month ended February 15 and showed considerable variance from that of a year previously, according to the Federal-State Crop report issued by the Department of Agriculture.

The prices reported as of February 15 are as follows: Wheat, .89; corn, .70; oats, .41; barley, .59; rye, .66; buckwheat, .64; potatoes, .65; hay, 9.90; apples, .85; hogs, $7.70 per hundredweight; beef cattle, $8.40; veal calves, $11.30; sheep, 4.05; lambs, $9.10; chickens, .168 per pound; turkeys, .22; butter, .30; eggs, .238.

Prices for these products on Feburary 15, 1940 were: Wheat, $1.02; corn, .67; oats, .44; barley, .61; rye, .69; buckwheat, .61; potatoes, .95; hay, $12.20; apples, .75; hogs, $5.90 per hundredweight; beef cattle, $7.60; veal calves, $10.40; sheep, $3.40; lambs, $8.20; chickens, .158; turkeys, .21; butter, .30; eggs, .242.

Taking pre-war prices as a base of 100, it is figured that the price index of commodities which the farmer pays for what he purchases stands at 123 and his purchasing power based upon the prices he receives for his products is 98.

## RHODE ISLAND REDS STILL LEAD CONTEST

AT the end of the 21st week of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest a pen of Rhode Island Reds held the lead with a total of 1,548.65 points and a total production of 1,486 eggs. Standing in the contest is based upon the number of points which are obtained from the weight of the eggs, 24 ounces per dozen giving 100 points.

The leading pen for the week was one of Single Comb White Leghorns which made 82.95 points and produced 77 eggs. The production for all pens to that date stood at 62.14 percent or a total production of 93,806 eggs. The average production per bird was 91.34 eggs, and the average egg weight was 24 ounces per dozen. There are a total of 1,027 birds in the contest.

## FRANKLIN LEADING COUNTY IN PA. IN RYE PRODUCTION

ACCORDING to reports of the Department of Agriculture Franklin County ranks first among the counties in this State in the production of rye, leading by nearly double the number of bushels produced in the next highest county, which is Berks. The latest production report shows that there were 7,930 acres in Franklin County devoted to rye and that the total production was 126,080 bushels or an average acre yield of 15.9 bushels. The value is placed at $71,870.

The acreage in Berks County was 4,200, the total production was 65,940 bushels or an average yield of 15.7 bushels per acre. The value is given as $40,220. The next county was Cumberland County with 4,530 acres; total production of 64,780 bushels or an average yield of 14.3 bushels per acre. The value is placed at $36,280. Among the next high producers are Indiana County with 47,370 bushels, Bedford County, 43,410 bushels and Columbia County, 40,380 bushels.

## 70 MILLION POUNDS APPLES INSPECTED IN PA. FOR CANNING

INSPECTION of Pennsylvania apples for canning reached a total of 70,363,000 pounds during 1940, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. This figure was exceeded only during one year since apple inspection was begun in 1927 and that was in 1939 when the apple crop was larger than last year and during that season the State licensed graders inspected a total of 78,719,000 pounds.

This vast quantity of apples represents the greater part of all apples used for canning and processing in this State.

Secretary Light stated that Pennsylvania canned apples and apple products have now attained a foremost place in the canning industry and in the markets of the nation. "Not many years ago," the Secretary declared, "Pennsylvania canned apples were sold at a discount but now they command 'top of the market' or premium quotations over apples from many other sections. The emphasis placed upon high quality by Pennsylvania canners has established an enviable reputation for their products. The system of State inspection of the apples used by canners insures the grower of greater returns for quality apples and has stimulated better cultural practices. The improvements in quality of the fresh product is reflected in improved canned products."

## PULLORUM DISEASE TAKES HEAVY TOLL

DURING the next few months millions of chicks will be hatched but many of them will not reach maturity because of the occurrence of disease, it is pointed out by the Department of Agriculture. A large number of the chick losses from disease occur in the baby chicks during their first two or three weeks of life.

The most destructive disease of chicks during their early days of brooding is pullorum disease, formerly termed bacillary white diarrhea or B. W. D. This disease is transmitted from the infected hen, through the egg, to the baby chick. Pullorum-infected chicks will in turn infect other chicks in the same incubator or brooder. The disease, however, is not in all cases transmitted through the egg because disease-free chicks may at any time after hatching become infected if they are exposed to pullorum-infected birds or surroundings contaminated with the germ.

Efforts to reduce losses in outbreaks of pullorum disease among chicks are rarely successful. The only effective control measure is that of starting with chicks hatched from breeding stock known to be free of the disease as determined by official blood tests and to keep them from exposure to any sources of pullorum infection.

## TUBERCULIN RETEST SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR CURRENT YEAR

THE 1941 schedule for area tuberculin retests comprises 23 counties and will include an estimated 460,000 cattle, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. This figure does not include the tests which will be made under the individual herd plan. Retests under the area plan were made in 25 counties last year. but some of that work included the completion of the 1939 program. Under that plan 53,755 herds comprising 520,762 cattle were retested and only 1,861 reacted, showing that they were affected by the disease. In both Forest and Cameron counties there were no reactors and there was only one reactor in Union County.

In addition to the area plan tests were made under the individual plan on 7,496 herds, comprising 175,820 cattle in which there were 790 reactors. Under this plan the herd owner has his own tests made each year but indemnities are paid for reactors. This plan is followed mostly by breeders who are required to have recent tests when selling cattle. The area plan is devised on the basis of having the entire state retested every three years, about one third of the counties being covered each year. When reactors are found in a herd another test is made in 60 days and three more tests are made at intervals of six months after all trace of the disease has been eliminated.

Under both plans last year a total of 698,543 cattle were retested of which 2,651 were affected by the disease. Indemnities paid from State funds amounted to $87,771.89 and from Federal funds, $63,070.50.

The following counties and the estimated number of cattle are included in the present schedule: Montgomery, 20,000; Berks, 36,000; Allegheny, 16,000; Clearfield, 14,000; Lancaster, 60,000; Juniata, 9,000; Delaware, 6,000; Clarion, 18,000; Lebanon, 18,000; Monroe, 6,000; Northampton, 19,000; Armstrong, 17,000; Cumberland, 23,000; Bedford, 30,000; Butler, 27,000; Centre, 24,000; Elk, 5,500; Lawrence, 22,000; Mifflin, 12,000; Venango, 14,000; Pike, 3,000; Lackawanna, 15,000; York, 40,000.

The counties with the estimated number of cattle retested under the area plan last year follow: Adams, 18,000; Beaver, 13,000; Blair, 14,000; Bucks, 28,000; Cameron, 650; Dauphin, 14,000; Fayette, 41,000; Lehigh, 11,000; McKean, 9600; Montour, 4200; Perry, 9600; Snyder, 8900; Susquehanna, 52,000; Union, 900; Westmoreland, 42,000; Bradford, 54,000; Clinton, 6700; Lycoming, 20,000; Northumberland, 13,000; Washington, 47,000; Warren, 20,000; Somerset, 37,000; Sullivan, 6500; Tioga, 42,000; Forest, 1400.

Pennsylvania is an accredited free tuberculin area by reason of the disease having been reduced to less than one half of one percent of the number of cattle in the State. From April, 1896 when testing was begun in this State to January 1, this year a total of $12,727,110 was paid by the State in indemnities. The Federal Government began sharing the burden in 1919 and a total of $6,922,723 was paid from Federal funds between that time and January 1.

## INJURY REPORTED TO EARLY SPINACH CROP

THE absence of snow cover in the Bucks-Philadelphia area has apparently injured early spinach prospects, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. High winds and low temperatures the week of Feb. 17 scorched the leaves but did not injure roots. Some fields were hit hard with frost but no thaws or heavy freezes have occurred yet to cause any upheaval and no plants have been frozen out. With favorable March weather the crop should come through the winter in good condition. Some winter plantings of spring spinach have been made although probably not more than usual at this time. The wintered-over crop in the southeastern sections of the State have had ample snow protection most of the time of extreme freezes and so far crop prospects look favorable. It is still too early to determine condition and stand of spinach is most of the other sections of the State.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## ILLEGAL INJECTING OF CATTLE BRINGS OFFICIAL WARNING

A WARNING has been issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture in connection with the illegal sale of veterinary biologics to laymen and herd owners for the injection of cattle as a preventive of disease. In the statement issued by Dr. C. P. Bishop, director of the Bureau, in which he refers to the situation as a serious problem, it is stated that "The Bureau of Animal Industry is charged under the law with prevention, control and elimination of transmissible diseases of animals and poultry. Our concern has been to control the illegal use of various biologics, the unwise use of which in many instances causes the spreading of disease, rather than eradication or control. Injection for such purposes are not permitted except upon specific permission from a member or authorized agent of the Bureau."

It is said that a number of instances have been found in which herds have been illegally vaccinated for Bang disease and as a result some of the cattle reacted to the tests made by agents of the Department. In these cases the State cannot pay indemnities for the cattle which must be disposed of, causing loss to the farmer. It is pointed out that persons who do the injecting as well as cattle owners who permit their cattle to be treated are subject to prosecution.

The statement by Dr. Bishop also states that "It is unfortunate that too many herd owners believe that they can successfully eliminate and control Bang disease in their herds by substituting calfhood and even mature animal vaccination for the blood test and elimination method combined with herd management and sanitation. Our present knowledge of calfhood vaccination, considering all phases of the problem, indicates encouraging results may be obtained by employing the vaccine as an aid or supplement to our present plan, when its use is properly controlled and supervised in specially selected problem or infected herds.

"The promiscuous and irrational use of brucella abortus vaccine on a large scale at the present time may seriously interfere with the progress made in the eradication and control program, and may create a situation in the minds of owners which will deter them from giving the support to the Bang disease program which it must have to continue and succeed."

## DECREASE REPORTED IN NUMBER OF SHEEP

ACCORDING to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service issued by the Department of Agriculture the number of sheep and lambs on the farms of this State January 1 was 400,000 which is a decrease of 4,000 as compared with the number on the comparable date, 1940 and a decrease of 63,000 as compared with the 10-year average from 1930 to 1939.

The value was placed at $2,140,000 which represents a per head value of $5.40 as compared with a total value of $2,155,000 or $5.30 per head a year previously and an average value of $2,413,000 or $5.21 per head over the 10-year period.

The number of sheep shorn in this state during the past year was 368,000 yielding a total of 2,834,000 pounds of wool. The average weight per fleece was 7.7 pounds. The average price per pound was 31 cents and the total cash income is placed at $879,000.

During 1939 the total number of sheep shorn was 379,000 which produced 2,842,000 pounds of wool. The price per pound was 25 cents bringing a total of $710,000 in cash income.

## WHEAT PRICES LOWER

WHEAT has been selling lower this Winter than last, reflecting a somewhat larger total supply, a poor export demand and prospects for another good Winter crop to be harvested next summer. The price in January was 73 cents a bushel as compared with 84.5 cents a year previously.

### FARM CASH INCOME

Cash farm income in Pennsylvania in 1939 was $189,169,000.

## MORE THAN 7 TONS PENNA. TOMATO SEED CERTIFIED BY DEPT.

A TOTAL of 14,951 pounds or nearly seven and one-half tons of tomato seed was certified by the Department of Agriculture during 1940, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry. Agents of the Department inspected 219 acres of tomatoes for seed and certified 208.75 acres from which the certified seed was produced. The inspection included 28 growers.

The varieties of certified seed available this year include Bonny Best, Pink Globe, Grothens, Marglobe, Pritchard and Rutgers, with the latter variety far in the lead with 10,029 pounds of the total.

The report states that the seed certified is the result of painstaking effort on the part of the seed growers to develop outstanding varietal characteristics. The quality of foundation seed is maintained by planting each variety in special seed plots where it is subject to intensive selection work each year. Only the outstanding fruits are saved for propagation as stock seed.

## $476,980 COLLECTED BY BUREAU IN 1940

REVENUE received by the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1940 amounted to $476,980.37, according to the report of the Bureau. Of this sum $450,820.47 was paid for licenses and the balance of $26,159.90 represented fines for violations of the General Food and other Acts of Assembly.

Licenses issued during the year were divided as follows: Bakery, 3,590; ice cream manufacturers, 1,673; oleomargerine, 3,314; cold storage warehouses, 76; egg opening plants, 23; beverage bottlers, 1,040; fertilizer manufacturers, 184; feeding stuffs manufacturers, 1,417; lime dealers, 198, and insecticide manufacturers, 292, making a total of 11,807 licenses issued.

## PENNA. CROP GRADING REACHES NEW HIGH

GRADING by the Department of Agriculture of Pennsylvania farm crops used by canneries last year reached the highest point in number of locations and inspectors employed at any year since the inspection service was inaugurated in 1927, according to the report of Secretary John H. Light. The total of all products inspected for cannery purposes amounted to 219,729,000 pounds of which tomatoes, totalling 108,147,000 pounds ranked first and apples totalling 70,363,000 pounds holding second place.

Other products inspected were berries, 375,000 pounds; cherries, 7,423,000 pounds; corn, 13,306,000 pounds; grapes, 13,904,000 pounds; lima beans, 64,000 pounds; peas, 5,125,000 pounds; peaches, 520,000 pounds and snap beans, 502,000 pounds.

According to the report the total cash income from canning crops last year amounted to $2,390,060. It also shows that Pennsylvania ranks second among the states of the country in the production of tomatoes, third in the production of peas and sixth in the production of sweet corn.

A complete summary of the 1940 grading work, giving detailed reports of acreages, prices per ton, yields per acre, average grades, locations of inspections and other data, has been issued by the department and is available to those interested if they address the Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg.

## EGG PRODUCTION UP

PRODUCTION of eggs on farms in 1940 throughout the United States was the largest in 10 years. The total was 38,892 million eggs. Largest production on record was 39,067 million in 1930.

### EXPECT CASH INCOME INCREASE

IT is expected that total cash farm income will increase this year, but in smaller proportion than the increase in industrial income.

## 1,045,305 CATTLE TESTED IN 2 YEARS FOR BANG'S DISEASE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS during the past two years in control of Bang's disease in cattle in this State have shown the greatest progress in any period since the inauguration of that work according to the report of Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, bringing Pennsylvania from seventh place among the states of the country on December 31, 1938 in the number of blood tests conducted for the disease to fourth position. During the last two-year period the State also went from tenth place which it held December 31, 1938 to fifth position in the number of counties accredited for Bang's Disease.

The testing of herds under the Area Plan has been conducted in 25 counties comprising 444 townships. Testing on the Individual and Area Plans has been conducted in 18 counties, 17 of which have qualified as Modified Accredited Bang's Disease Free Areas by reason of the infection having been reduced to one percent or less of the cattle tested and five percent or less of the total number of herds tested. Thirteen of the 17 counties qualified since January 1, 1939. Under the Area Plan tests are conducted on a township basis.

Secretary Light announced that from January 1, 1938 to December 1, 1938 a total of 44,654 herds representing 489,182 cattle were tested and $657,573.51 was paid in State indemnities as compared with 51,251 herds comprising 602,737 cattle having been tested from January 1 to December 31, 1940 during which time $582,926.69 in State indemnities were paid. As of December 31, 1938 a total of 38,653 herds comprising 386,320 cattle were under supervision of the Department for Bang's disease control as compared with 63,912 herds comprising 548,320 cattle having been under supervision on December 31, 1940.

The report of Secretary Light further shows that during the period from June 1, 1937 when payment of indemnities by the State was started to December 31, 1938, a period of one year and seven months, 696,420 cattle were tested for Bang's disease and the State paid a total of $755,681.57 in indemnities. During the period from January 1, 1939 to December 31, 1940, a period of two years, 1,045,305 cattle were tested and indemnities paid by the State amounted to $962,445.11. During the first period the average number of cattle tested monthly was 36,653 and during the latter period the number was 43,554. The total tests, however include both initial and retests and in some cases it is required that as many as eight retests of the same herd are required before the disease is entirely eliminated.

The counties which have qualified as Modified Accredited Bang's Disease Free Areas are Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Forest, Juniata, Armstrong, Indiana, Jefferson, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Venango, Wyoming, Clinton and Clearfield.

## URGE INCREASE IN APPLE CONSUMPTION

MOVEMENT of apples from Pennsylvania storages during February are reported to have been fairly heavy but it is said that consumption must be accelerated during the next two months if the crop is to be disposed of before the beginning of warm weather. Some storages in this State report that apples are 'pretty well sold out' but others report a considerable volume still on hand. Reports show a total of 1,046,000 bushels, including both Western and Eastern apples in storage in this State on March 1 as compared with 786,000 bushels in storage on March 1, 1940.

Loss of the export market has been a serious blow to Pennsylvania apple growers and with that market no longer existing, it is insisted that increased domestic consumption will be necessary if Pennsylvania is to maintain its present high position in apple production.

Apples produced in this State rank high in the market, being of excellent grade and quality and with that fruit holding a high place as a source of health, it is generally urged that consumption be increased.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 Harrisburg, April 3, 1941 No. 14

## LITTLE CHANGE SEEN IN CROP ACREAGES IN PENNA. FOR 1941

PENNSYLVANIA farmers are planning little change in the total acreage to be planted to major crops this year compared with last, according to the report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, issued by the Department of Agriculture. Present intentions indicate that about the same acreage will be needed to corn, hay and oats, but decreases in acreage devoted to potatoes, soybeans and barley are in prospect. A larger acreage of tobacco is expected to be planted this year.

The acreage of winter wheat and rye for harvest this year is expected to be equal to 1940 although most fields are still dormant at this time and the extent of winter injury cannot be fully determined.

The acreages actually planted in 1941 may turn out to be larger or smaller than the acreages indicated by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply and financial conditions.

The acreages to be planted and comparisons with last year follow:

| | 1940 | 1941 |
|---|---|---|
| Crop | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres |
| Corn | 1,341 | 1,341 |
| Spring Wheat | 10 | 10 |
| Oats | 888 | 888 |
| Barley | 155 | 147 |
| Potatoes | 189 | 185 |
| Tobacco | 33.3 | 35.3 |
| Soybeans* | 79 | 76 |
| Cowpeas* | 1 | 1 |
| Tame hay** | 2,400 | 2,400 |

*Grown alone for all purposes, partly duplicated in hay acreage. **Acreage harvested.

## FEWER HENS BREAK EGG LAYING RECORD

ALTHOUGH the number of layers in Pennsylvania in February was 1,000 below the number of February, 1940, there was an increase of six million in the number of eggs produced, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. Favorable weather with liberal feeding during the month are said to be the main factors in the heavy production.

The number of layers last month is placed at 14,809,000 as compared with 15,220,000 in February, 1940. The egg production last month was 178 million as compared with 172 million a year previously. The monthly number of eggs per layer was 12 as compared with 11.3 last year.

Egg prices received by Pennsylvania farmers on February 15 this year were 5 percent below the prices prevailing during the comparable month in 1940. Feed prices registered slight declines during February but did not nearly compensate for the disadvantage of lower egg prices. Feed-egg price ratios as a result are less favorable this month than last month and indicate a marked disadvantage compared to this period a year ago.

## UNUSUAL DEMAND FOR PA. POTATOES

REPORTS to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture from the principal potato growing counties show that the 1940 Pennsylvania potato crop is being marketed to a greater extent than had been anticipated and that there is no concern felt about a carry-over surplus. Early in the season fears were held by many growers that large quantities of the crop would be unsold this Spring because of the heavy crop produced in practically all of the potato growing areas.

The satisfactory marketing of Pennsylvania potatoes is attributed largely to the great progress which has been made in the grading of the product under supervision of the agents of the Department of Agriculture. Coupled with the generally high quality of last season's crop, the grading of potatoes for market has increased consumer demand for the product from this State. Growers generally have seen the great advantages of producing quality potatoes and of having them properly graded according to the law since demand for Pennsylvania potatoes has continued to increase with the increase in the number of growers who market their crops under proper grading.

## DOGS KILL, INJURE 2,552 SHEEP IN PA. DURING PAST YEAR

DURING 1940 a total of $19,905 was paid by the State for damages to livestock and poultry caused by dogs according to the Department of Agriculture. A total of 2,552 sheep were killed and injured for which the State paid the owners $10,885. The amount paid for poultry damages caused by dogs was $5,097 and claims paid for damages to other livestock, including cattle, swine, horses and rabbits, totalled $1,762. Total fees paid by the State for the burial of livestock killed by dogs amounted to $2,159.

In addition to those amounts a total of $3,241 was paid by dog owners direct to owners of livestock and poultry which had been damaged by their dogs. A total of $2,849 was also paid in fines by dog owners who had been prosecuted for dog law violations.

## FARMERS CONCERNED OVER LABOR SUPPLY

THAT farmers are feeling great concern over the labor situation is shown by reports to the Department of Agriculture, according to Secretary John H. Light, who stated that never before has agriculture expressed such universal uncertainty about the farm labor supply. The trend of considerable labor previously available for farm work going to industry is already said to be definitely noticeable and it is believed this trend will increase as defense work gets into greater production. In addition to this trend is the uncertainty reported in the case of farmers who have sons of draft age, causing the possibility of shortages of labor from that source.

According to available data the labor situation has already reversed itself as compared with the condition existing a year previously. On January 1 this year the demand for labor on Pennsylvania farms was calculated to be 88 percent of normal as compared with 82 percent on the comparable date, 1940. The supply was 82 percent of normal as compared with 89 percent, showing that the supply last year was seven percent greater than the demand whereas this year it was reversed to be six percent under the demand.

Preliminary reports already indicate that although canneries will contract for a greater acreage for cannery crops this year than in 1940, the increase will be procured over a wider area taking in an increased number of growers as the large grower shows an inclination not to increase acreages fearing that he may find difficulty in procuring sufficient labor to harvest the crops.

## 10 PERCENT DROP IN TURKEYS ON FARMS

THE number of turkeys on farms in Pennsylvania at the beginning of the year was estimated to be 153,000 or ten percent less than January 1, 1940, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. Since it is probable that the number of turkeys raised in 1940 was not greatly different from the number raised in 1939, the smaller inventory number on January 1 this year was likely the result of a much smaller carryover of market birds with some reduction in number of breeding birds.

## SET MORE EGGS FOR HATCHING IN FEB.

EGGS set for hatching in February throughout the country are reported to show an increase of 25 percent over the same month of last year. The increase in the Middle Atlantic States is reported to be 10 percent. Chicks on advance order also showed an increase of 25 percent throughout the country and 23 percent in the Middle Atlantic States.

### Land Area Of Pennsylvania

ACCORDING to the last survey the land area of Pennsylvania is 28,692,480 acres 55.3 percent of which is in farms. Of the farm acreage 6,217,400 acres are devoted to the growing of the principal farm crops, which include grains, potatoes, hay and vegetables.

## PENNA. FARM SHOW AWARDS CLASSIFIED PAYMENTS INCREASE

OF the total of $42,918 offered in cash prizes to exhibitors in the competitive classes at the 1941 Pennsylvania Farm Show a total of $34,489.25 was paid in awards, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light, who is also chairman of the Farm Show Commission has announced. This amount is about $1,100 greater than the sum paid to exhibitors in the 1940 show, and represents about 80 percent of the amount offered which is about the same percentage which has prevailed over the past several years. The reason for the discrepancy is that there are not sufficient prize winners in some of the classifications.

The amounts of cash awards paid by classes follow:

| | |
|---|---|
| Horses | $2,940.00 |
| Sheep | 2,440.00 |
| 4-H Lambs | 532,00 |
| Dress Carcass | 15.00 |
| Swine | 2,169.00 |
| Beef Cattle | 3,065.00 |
| 4-H Baby Beeves | 1,400.00 |
| Dairy Cattle | 7,368.00 |
| Milk | 202.00 |
| Corn | 687.00 |
| Small Grains | 194.00 |
| Potatoes | 487.00 |
| 4-H Corn Judging Contest | 108.00 |
| 4-H Potato Judging Contest | 108.00 |
| Tobacco | 237.00 |
| Apples | 1,374.50 |
| Nuts | 33.00 |
| Vegetables | 509.00 |
| Maple Products | 166.00 |
| Apiary Products | 545.50 |
| Wool | 188.00 |
| Eggs | 474.00 |
| Baby Chicks | 78.00 |
| Dressed Turkeys | 42.00 |
| Poultry | 5,673.00 |
| Home Economics | 1,252.25 |
| Home Management | 365.00 |
| State Vocational Demonstration Contest | 600.00 |
| State Contest of Vocational School Exhibits | 590.00 |
| Transportation Allowances for 4-H Club Dairy Cattle | 342.00 |

## PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL TREATMENT

AGENTS of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture recently caused the arrest of a resident of Southern Pennsylvania on charges that he vaccinated cattle for Bang disease in violation of the law. He later pleaded guilty to the charges and was fined and required to pay the costs.

Intense efforts are being made by the Bureau to bring an end to the illegal practice of injecting biologics in cattle as disease preventives which, according to Dr. C. P. Bishop, Director of the Bureau, presents a serious problem to herd owners and to the Bureau of Animal Industry in the work to eradicate Bang disease from the herds in this State. Injections for such purposes are not permitted except upon specific permission from a member or authorized agent of the Bureau.

Farmers suffer severe losses in cases where it is found that animals have been illegally vaccinated or injections have been made as they will not be paid indemnities for cattle which have been treated, should they react to a test for Bang disease made under direction of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Treatments of this kind are not effective either as cures or preventives of the disease in mature animals. Only recently, the Bureau adopted a method of calfhood vaccination as an aid in Bang disease control, but its use is permitted only under direct supervision of the Bureau, and it will be employed in connection with and not in substitution for the present system of eradicating the disease which requires that affected animals be destroyed.

## HYBRID CORN GROWN WIDELY IN PENNA.

ALTHOUGH little hybrid corn was grown a few years ago, it was planted in 1940 on about 178,000 acres in Pennsylvania which, it is estimated was double the acreage planted a year previously. In the 12 Corn Belt States it was planted on about 25 million acres which was more than 50 percent of the acreage planted to corn in these states. Corn acreage in those states declined more than 12 million acres during the past five years.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## PA. FARMER INCOME GREATLY INCREASED DURING PAST YEAR

VAST improvement in the cash income for Pennsylvania farmers during 1940 over the past two years is shown by the figures just reported by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. Total cash received from all marketings last year amounted to $271,990,000 as compared with $261,019,000 in 1939. Of these amounts income from grain crops last year accounted for $80,001,000 as compared with $76,151,000 in 1939 and $191,989,000 represented the income in 1940 from livestock and livestock products as compared with $184,-[illegible]8,000 the year previously. Total cash income in 1938 was $257,729,000.

Increases in income are shown to have been received from all grain and vegetable crops and from tobacco last year over 1939 but a decrease is shown in the income from fruits and nuts, the 1940 total from the last two items being $11,704,000 as compared with $13,469,-[illegible]0 the year previously and $10,869,000 in 1938.

Income from the various crops last year is shown to have been as follows: Corn, $4,320,000; wheat, $8,646,000; all grains, including oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, $14,780,000; tobacco, $5,580,000; potatoes, $12,561,000; truck crops, $15,-[illegible]7,000; all vegetables, $28,228,000; apples, $6,393,000; peaches, $1,758,000; pears, $347,000; grapes, $630,000; strawberries, $1,580,000.

It is estimated that the cash income from all crops used by canneries is $[illegible]20,000,000.

## CLEAN UP URGED TO CUT BORER DAMAGE

WITH the coming of the planting season the Department of Agriculture is urging farmers to make every effort to eliminate sources through which the corn borer might develop to cause disastrous losses to the corn crop. An effective method which can be followed to keep the rate of infestation low enough to prevent serious damage is to clean up all corn refuse before May 1 and to delay the date of planting corn. In areas where the corn has been cut low and put into the silo, the corn borer has never been able to build up a population sufficiently high to cause any damage.

During the past season it was found that in a few fields in the Western and Central parts of the State which had been planted early, infestation ran as high as 30 infested stocks to the 100. The insects in these parts of the State have been found to be entirely of the single brooded species, while in the Eastern section, particularly along the Delaware River, there is a rather heavy infestation in which there is a two-generation strain of the borer.

A survey was made last season in 32 counties to determine an estimate of damage caused by the corn borer with the result that a loss of crop value of $[illegible]2,463.00 was sustained in the case of corn harvested for grain. The survey covered 423,858 acres on which the estimated value of the crop was $12,-[illegible]3,277. In the case of sweet corn an area of 16,398 acres was surveyed on which it was estimated that a loss of crop value of $56,470.00 was sustained. The value of the crop was placed at $967,-[illegible]60.00.

## BROODER PNEUMONIA CAUSES HEAVY LOSS

BROODER pneumonia, it is pointed out by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, causes heavy losses in baby chicks and control measures should be taken at once upon its appearance. The disease usually occurs during the first few weeks of brooding and is more prevalent in damp, overheated and poorly ventilated houses.

Control measures consist of the removal of the visibly affected chicks and a thorough mechanical cleaning and disinfecting of the house. It is important to keep the litter dry by the use of wire platforms under the feeding vessels, but to avoid dusty litter.

## COOPERATIVE MEETS WITH SUCCESS IN NEW JUICE CANNERY

UNUSUAL success has attended the first season of operation of the cooperative apple juice cannery established last Fall in the Berks-Lehigh section, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. Many of the commercial apple growers in the Eastern section of the State delivered apples to the new plant during the season and the prices they received are said to have been above expectations. Sales of the product also far exceeded original estimates it is reported.

As the result of the success of the cooperative enterprise, it is reported that growers in other sections are discussing plans for the establishment of cooperatives to provide added outlets for the Pennsylvania apple crop.

## HOGS, VALUE SHOW DECREASE THIS YEAR

THE number of hogs, including pigs on farms in Pennsylvania on January 1 was 53,000 less than on the comparable date of the year previously, but 62,000 more than for the 10-year average from 1930 to 1939, according to reports of Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The number this year is given as 705,000 as compared with 758,000 on January 1, 1940 and an average of 643,000 for the previous 10-year period. The value of the hogs and pigs however, was considerably below that of both periods.

The value of the stock this year was placed at $6,278,000 or $8.90 per head. The value of the hogs and pigs on the farms on January 1, 1940 was $6,937,000 or $9.20 per head and the 10-year average was $6,869,000 or $10.69 per head.

According to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service issued by the State Department of Agriculture the supply and demand conditions throughout the country point to higher prices of hogs and larger income to hog producers this year than last. The seasonal reduction in hog marketings in late December and early January was more pronounced than a year earlier, and hog supplies are smaller than at this time last year. The total number marketed during the remainder of the year, through next September, will be about 15 percent smaller than in the corresponding period of 1940. It is expected that hogs slaughtered under inspection this marketing year, October, 1940 to September, 1941, will total about 45 million head, compared with 50.4 million head during the preceding year.

Reports from farmers in December indicated that 14 percent fewer sows would be farrowed this Spring than last.

## FARMER'S SHARE IS SHOWING INCREASE

THE farmer's share of consumer expenditures for domestic food products continued to increase through 1940, according to calculations covering 58 representative food items with quantities adjusted so that the full basket represents a year's purchase by a typical family.

For this selected list of food products, the bureau finds that in 1940 the farmers got 42 cents out of the retail dollar compared with 40 cents in 1938 and 41 cents in 1939. This rise in the farmer's share, is attributed in large part to a continued decline in the middleman's charges for marketing service.

The contents of this market basket as filled for statistical purposes, cost $314 at retail in 1940. Of this, farmers got $132, and transportation, processing, wholesale, and retail margins accounted for $182. In 1920 such a basketful of foods would have sold at $514, in 1932 at $270, and in 1937 at $353.

Wage payments to labor it is found constitute an important element in the costs of most marketing services. Hourly wage rates have increased by four percent since 1935 in retail trade, by 10 percent on steam railways, by 14 percent in the wholesale trade, and 21 percent in food manufactures. But the handling margin has declined two points.

## PA. POTATO GROWERS DISPOSE OF MOST OF HEAVY '40 CROP

IN spite of the heavy crops last year and the low prices which have prevailed throughout the country, Pennsylvania potato growers are in a more advantageous position than they have been for the past three years according to reports of the Department of Agriculture.

The cash income from the 1940 crop received by Pennsylvania growers is placed at $12,561,000 as compared with $11,668,000 in 1939 and $9,069,000 in 1938. In addition to the large increase in cash income it is reported that the growers of this State are not facing the problem of a surplus. In view of the heavy production last year there were fears held earlier in the season that the crop would not be disposed of but during the past two months, Pennsylvania potatoes have been finding a ready market with the result that many of the storage centers have no potatoes remaining. In practically all other principal potato growing states there are heavy surpluses and prices have been greatly depressed. In some of these states growers disposed of large parts of their crops under a marketing arrangement with the Federal Government which diverted the potatoes to livestock feed and into starch but under that arrangement exceeding low prices were received.

The advantageous position of the Pennsylvania grower is attributed to the great improvement in marketing potatoes grown in this State as the result of the grading and inspection work done by the Department of Agriculture. Grading of the product assures the consumer of receiving a definite quality and this has greatly increased the demand for Pennsylvania potatoes. In fact it is reported that during the past year in some sections of the State, there have been practically no sales of potatoes from other States, the consumer demanding graded Pennsylvania potatoes.

This advance has been made in the potato growing industry in spite of the fact that the present administration of the Department of Agriculture has not had a special appropriation to carry on this work but conducted it from regular department funds. During the previous administration, a special appropriation of $25.000 was given for this work.

## REPORT DECLINES IN FIELD SEED PRICES

RETAIL prices of 17 important kinds of field seeds on February 15 were lower than a year earlier, prices of six kinds were higher and one was the same both years, according to the Federal Marketing Service issued by the State Department of Agriculture. Declines from February 15, 1940, per 100 pounds, except where otherwise indicated, were as follows: Alsike clover, $6.90; ryegrass, $1.40; Korean lespedeza, 85 cents; redtop, 80 cents; sweetclover, 70 cents; timothy, 65 cents; potatoes, 25 cents; Canada field peas and Amber sorgo, each 10 cents; open pollinated corn, wheat and barley, each 10 cents a bushel; soybeans and oats, each five cents a bushel. Advances per 100 pounds were as follows: White clover, $10.30; rape, $8.95; orchard grass, $8.00; German millet, 45 cents; Kentucky bluegrass, 40 cents, and Sudan grass, 15 cents. The price of cowpeas was the same as a year ago.

Following are the prices listed in this State on February 15; red clover, $17.25; Alsike clover, $18.25; white clover, $78.80; sweet clover, $8.25; Korean lespedeza, $8.65; alfalfa-Common, $23.70; Grimm, $26.40; timothy, $7.00; redtop, $16.30; Kentucky bluegrass, $25.00; common ryegrass, $9.20; orchard grass, $28.70; German millet, $5.50; amber sorgo, $5.85; Sudan grass, $5.60; rape, $16.90; Canada field peas, $6.50; cowpeas, $2.40; soybeans, $1.80; seed corn, open pollinated, $2.75; seed wheat, $1.55; seed oats, 80 cents; seed barley, $1.25, and seed potatoes, $1.30. Prices are for 100 pounds, except cowpeas, soybeans, potatoes and seed grains which are per bushel.

### MILK PRODUCTION

The national production of milk in Feb. is estimated at slightly over 8 billion pounds, around 3 percent above Feb. 1940.



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## COMPLETE DATA ON ENTRIES, AWARDS AT 1941 FARM SHOW

FINAL compilations of the number of entries and cash awards in the various divisions of the 1941 Pennsylvania Farm Show have been announced by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture who is also chairman of the Farm Show Commission.

The total number of competitive entries this year was 11,553 as compared with 10,818 in the 1940 show and the number of cash awards was 6,290 as compared with 6,132 last year. The premium payments amounted to $34,-[illegible]9.25, an increase of about $1,100 over the amount paid the year previously.

The number of entries and premiums paid according to divisions follows:

| Division | Entries | Premiums |
|---|---|---|
| HORSES | 106 | 155 |
| SHEEP | 434 | 364 |
| (Dress Carcass) | 5 | 2 |
| SWINE | 262 | 154 |
| BEEF CATTLE | 220 | 303 |
| DAIRY CATTLE | 367 | 421 |
| MILK | 188 | 49 |
| CORN | 428 | 237 |
| SMALL GRAINS | 195 | 69 |
| POTATOES | 338 | 188 |
| CIGAR LEAF TOBACCO | 419 | 88 |
| APPLES | 382 | 385 |
| EDIBLE NUTS | 67 | 26 |
| VEGETABLES | 214 | 138 |
| MAPLE PRODUCTS | 71 | 41 |
| DAIRY PRODUCTS | 222 | 153 |
| WOOL | 85 | 51 |
| EGGS | 529 | 142 |
| BABY CHICKS | 68 | 37 |
| DRESSED TURKEYS | 35 | 21 |
| POULTRY | 4391 | 2462 |
| HOME ECONOMICS | 2449 | 765 |
| SPORTS | 13 | 5 |
| STATE VOCATIONAL DEMONSTRATION CONTEST | 56 | 20 |
| STATE CONTEST OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOL EXHIBITS | 14 | 14 |

## FINE VIOLATORS OF CHICK SALES LAW

STRICT enforcement of the law regulating the sale of baby chicks has been ordered by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture and agents of the Division of Eggs and Poultry of the Department have been making inspections of the various auctions through the State.

During the past two weeks the agents have inspected 15 auctions at various times, attending both the day and night sales for the purpose of learning if chick sales are being made in violation of the law. During that period seven dealers were charged with violations and each one convicted before justices of the peace. Each was fined and required to pay the costs of prosecution. The seven convictions were obtained at four different auctions.

The law requires that containers holding baby chicks, when offered for sale as a unit in this State, must in every case, carry on them the following markings in clear, legible characters: Number of chicks, breed of chicks, date hatched, whether blood-tested or not blood-tested, cockerels, pullets or straight run, name and address of the producers and the name and address of the seller.

## BRONCHITIS IS NEW BABY CHICK DISEASE

INFECTIOUS bronchitis is an apparently new respiratory disease of baby chicks, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Only recently recognized as becoming of greater importance. The term infectious bronchitis is somewhat confusing as it is frequently used incorrectly in reference to infectious laryngotracheitis another respiratory disease of chickens.

Infectious bronchitis is caused by a virus which passes laboratory filters capable of retaining ordinary germs and usually affects chicks when they are from two days to three weeks of age. Birds over three weeks of age are seldom seriously affected.

The disease is characterized by gasping for breath with rather high losses, the younger the chicks the higher the mortality. The gasping symptoms may also be observed in other chick diseases, particularly in pullorum disease and brooder pneumonia. A laboratory examination is very often necessary for a definite diagnosis.

The application of strict hygiene and increasing the brooder house temperature usually proves beneficial in outbreaks of the disease.

## ERIE COUNTY HAS HEAVY LEAD IN PA. GRAPE PRODUCTION

ERIE County is far in the lead among the counties in grape production, contributing mostly to holding this State in fourth position among the states in grape production. In 1939 Erie County produced 16,456 tons of grapes which sold at an average price of $36 per ton. The total value was $592,430. The number of grape vines in the county is placed at 6,030,517 of which more than 98 percent are in bearing.

The next largest grape producing county is Allegheny which in 1939 produced 583 tons which sold at an average price of $37, having a total value of $21,570. There are 195,618 vines in the county of which more than 92 percent are in bearing.

## ADVISE METHODS OF ELIMINATING ANTS

THE season for the annoying foraging expeditions into the home of ants which live in lawns, gardens and under walks will soon be here and in anticipation of that time the Department of Agriculture has advised methods of eradication of the pest.

The use of dust mixtures containing pyrethrum or the ground roots of certain tropical plants are effective control measures. The finely ground pyrethrum flowers, if dusted liberally about the house, usually gives immediate relief. Pyrethrum must be fresh to be effective since it slowly loses its insecticidal value in the presence of light. The ground roots of derris, cube and other related plants are recommended as ant controls. They are applied in the form of a dust and this dust should contain at least from ¾% to 1% of rotenone. Either the rotenone bearing materials or the pyrethrum flowers may usually be purchased from seed dealers or other persons selling insecticides.

To kill ants with a poison bait, observe first whether they feed on sweets or grease. The little red ants which are found about the kitchen, usually feed on grease, while the larger ants such as the carpenter ants feed on sweets. To prepare a poison for the sweet-loving ants, place one part by weight of tartar emetic in 20 parts of honey. Tartar emetic is a poison and when mixed with honey should at all times be kept out of reach of children and other irresponsible persons. It acts slowly and usually enough of it is carried by the ants to kill the entire colony.

For the grease-loving kinds, rub a little of the tartar emetic into a bacon rind, or if that is not convenient, mix the tartar emetic with grease, one part to twenty. Use the same safety caution as with the poisoned honey.

Washing unpainted woodwork with a one to 1,000 solution of mercuric chloride will repel some species of ants. This solution is prepared by placing one 15 grain tablet of the mercuric chloride in one quart of warm water. This solution is a deadly poison and care must be taken in its use. Keep the solution from irresponsible persons and do not bring in contact with metal.

## SLIGHT DROP SHOWN IN FARM CHICKENS

THERE were an estimated 19,227,000 chickens on the farms of this State on January 1 according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The value was placed at $17,112,000 or an average value per head of 89 cents.

On January 1, 1940 the number of chickens on Pennsylvania farms was placed at 20,007,000 which had a value of $17,266,000, or an average value per head of 86 cents.

The number of turkeys on farms showed a considerable decrease from the year previously. There were 153,000 birds on the farms on January 1 as compared with 170,000 at the beginning of 1940. In each instance the value per head was listed at $3.25 bringing the total value this year to $497,000 as compared with $552,000 on January 1, 1940.

## URGE INSPECTIONS OF TREES TO DETECT TENT CATERPILLARS

INSPECTION of trees for apple tree tent caterpillars should be made at this season of the year, the Department of Agriculture advises. The pests at times become so numerous as to completely defoliate shade and orchard trees. The "tents" or nests are formed at the crotch of limbs and are quite characteristic of the species which undergoes periodic fluctuations, destructive outbreaks occurring for a period of three to four years followed by a longer period in which it is not present in any great numbers. Wild cherry, apple and plum are favorite food plants.

The winter is spent in the egg stage, which hatch at about the time the first buds open. They are found on the smaller limbs forming a mass which contains from 300 to 400 eggs which nearly or completely encircles the limb.

The larvae "worms" are social, and all those hatching from an egg-cluster remain together and later form their silken nest or "tent" which is added to from day to day as the larvae increase in size. The full grown larvae are about two inches long. They leave the trees before pupating, choosing some sheltered place for transformation to this inactive stage. The cocoons are made of closely woven white silk. The moths emerge from the cocoon, in Pennsylvania, about the second or third week of June; and the eggs are laid soon after, which do not hatch until the following spring.

The pest is held in check by a long list of natural enemies which account for the years in which the insect is rarely noticed. A reduction of the tent caterpillar results in a reduction of natural enemies. This condition in turn gives the tent caterpillar a chance to increase until again checked by an increase of natural enemies.

In orchards which are well sprayed with arsenate of lead for the control of codling moth and curculio, tent caterpillars are rarely troublesome. On trees which are not regularly sprayed, a careful watch should be kept for the egg masses. These should be removed and burned. The nests are easily destroyed by wiping out with the hands. This should be done when the caterpillars are in the nest, which is usually on cool wet days. Burning out the nest may result in damage to the tree and is not recommended. Wild cherry is a favorite food plant and when growing as a weed they should be cut down, since such trees serve as centers of infestation. To protect trees with a spray, use arsenate of lead one and one-half pounds to 50 gallons of water. A dust composed of 15 pounds of arsenate of lead and 85 pounds of hydrated lime may also be used. Apply as soon as the tents are noticed.

## PA. ONION ACREAGE TO CHANGE SLIGHTLY

REPORTS show that Pennsylvania growers contemplate making only slight changes in acreages planted to onions this year, according to the Federal-State crop reports, issued by the State Department of Agriculture. The onion acreage last year was 3,400 acres and reports indicate that growers intend to plant 3,200 acres this year. The 10-year average, from 1930 to 1939 was 2,690 acres. The combined acreage of onions for the United States in 1941, planted and intended to be planted, including early, intermediate and late States, is indicated to be 129,070 acres, or an increase of 20 percent over the 107,290 acres grown for harvest in 1940. Compared with the 1930-39 average of 125,100 acres the increase is only 3 percent. In the late States growers report that they will plant less acreage this year, or 53,920 acres compared with 55,090 acres last year.

### BROILERS INCREASE

REPORTS indicate that specialized broiler production is increasing in areas adjacent to many large cities as well as in important broiler areas. Broiler prices during the past several months have been much higher than a year earlier while feed prices have been about the same.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## BRADFORD CO. LEADS IN NUMBER OF SILOS 43,550 IN STATE

ACCORDING to the latest figures of the Department of Agriculture there are 43,550 silos on the farms of Pennsylvania which is an average of one silo for each 32 head of cattle. It is estimated that there are 1,400,000 dairy cattle in this State.

Bradford County, although ranking third among the counties of the State in the number of cattle, leads the list in the number of silos. In that county the number of silos is placed at 3,020 and the number of cattle at approximately 54,000 which gives an average of one silo for each 18 head of cattle. Lancaster County leads all the counties in the State in the number of cattle and second in the number of silos, there being 2,520 silos in that county and approximately 60,000 head of cattle, making an average of one silo for each 24 head of cattle.

Crawford, with 56,500 cattle is second among the counties in the number of cattle and third in the number of silos which number 2,190 or an average of one silo for each 26 head of cattle. Susquehanna County holds fourth place among the counties in the number of cattle and in the number of silos, there being 2,090 silos and approximately 52,000 cattle or an average of one silo for each 25 head of cattle.

## FEWER PENNA. FARMS CHANGE HANDS IN '40

VOLUNTARY sales, tax sales, foreclosures and settlement of estates resulted in 58.6 Pennsylvania farms out of each 1,000 farms in the State changing ownership in 1940, compared with 60 per thousand in 1939 and 58.9 per thousand in 1938. Rates of turnover in ownership for the United States as a whole amounted to 61.3 farms per 1,000 in 1940, 67.8 in 1939 and 69.9 in 1938.

In Pennsylvania voluntary sales headed the list of causes for changing of titles to farms, nearly half the changes, or 25.4 farms per 1,000 having changed ownership in this way in 1940, 27.4 in 1939 and 27.9 in 1938.

Next in importance, according to the federal-state report from the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture transfer by inheritance, gift or other method incident to the settlement of estates. These methods accounted for 18.5 title changes in 1940, 18 in 1939 and 17.3 in 1938 per 1,000 farms. Third in importance, foreclosures, bankruptcy and similar actions accounted for 10.1 farms per 1,000 changing ownership.

Delinquent taxes accounted for only 4.2 ownership changes in each 1,000 farms in 1940, 4 in 1939 and 3.6 in 1938.

## PA. POTATO ACREAGE REDUCED THIS YEAR

REPORTS of the Federal-State Crop Service, issued by the State Department of Agriculture, indicate that there will be a reduction of approximately 4,000 acres planted to potatoes in this state this year. Reported intentions from growers indicate that they will plant 185,000 acres this year as compared with 189,000 acres in 1940. This is two percent less than the acreage planted last year when the yield was approximately 25 million bushels, but represents about an 11 percent decrease from the 10-year 1930-39 average.

Growers in the United States expect to plant 2,988,400 acres in potatoes this year, according to the latest reports. This would be 3.7 percent less than the 3,104,100 acres planted last year and 11 percent less than the 10-year average of 3,365,000 acres.

In the 30 late states, which account for the bulk of the nation's potato crop, prospective plantings are 2,210,900 acres, or about 5.5 percent less than the 2,340,600 acres planted in 1940.

### PLENTY FEEDS

THE supply of feed grains and by-product feeds is more than enough for the number of animals on farms, according to reports. The quantity of grain carried over on next Oct. 1 may be 50 million to 100 million bushels larger than the quantity carried over on that date last year.

## 2½ MILLION BUSHELS OF PENNA. POTATOES MADE INTO CHIPS

MANUFACTURE of potato chips in Pennsylvania has grown over the past few years to such an extent that today it is estimated that approximately two and one half million bushels of potatoes grown in this State are used in that industry, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. On the basis of the Pennsylvania crop last year this would account for about 10 percent of the production. This State greatly leads all other states in the manufacture of potato chips, according to the reports. In addition to the great number of potatoes used by the industry in this State, many carloads of Pennsylvania potatoes are shipped to potato chip manufacturers in other states as the Pennsylvania Russet potato is particularly in demand for this type of processing, producing a product of high quality.

## MITES CAUSE HEAVY DAMAGE TO POULTRY

AMONG the widely distributed and injurious pests which attack poultry and cause much loss are a blood-sucking parasite known as the red mite which irritates and weakens its victim, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. The mites spend most of their lives in concealment in crevices and loose litter around poultry houses. They are about equal to a pin head in size. Their color is greyish when unfed, but changes to dark red after a meal of blood. Hungry mites leave their places of concealment at night and crawl upon roosting birds. They remain on the birds only to feed, after which they return to their former refuge.

Due to this habit of concealment red mites may escape detection for some time after their introduction into a flock. In warm locations they multiply rapidly and a massive infestation may be established before the owner is aware of it. They can also survive for long periods without food and houses which have been vacated of birds for many weeks may still contain living mites.

They can be destroyed by various sprays, such as wood preserver containing anthracene oil, an emulsion of kerosene, soap, and water or a mixture of kerosene and crank case oil, provided of course that the solutions are brought into actual contact with the mites. To make sure of this, poultry houses should first be thoroughly cleansed. All litter and rubbish removed and burned. The spray must penetrate all angles and crevices of the building which could afford refuge for lurking mites.

## HOG CHOLERA SHOWS INCREASE IN 1940

RECORDS of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture indicate that there was an increase in hog cholera last year in Pennsylvania, the number of premises having been quarantined as a result of the disease having been 113 as compared with 76 premises having been quarantined during the year 1939. There was, however, an increase last year in the number of swine which were given the double treatment for prevention of the disease over the number of the year previously.

There are two forms of treatment, the single treatment being of a temporary nature, immunizing the animal for a period of about six months, which is usually given when it is planned to market the hogs, and the double treatment which is a preventive for the average life of a hog.

Last year 16,781 swine were given the single treatment on 684 premises, as compared with 24,348 on 620 premises in 1939; 36,324 swine were double treated on 1,062 premises as compared with 33,969 on 1,091 in 1939, making a total of 53,105 swine vaccinated on 1,746 premises last year as compared with 58,317 vaccinated on 1,711 premises the year previously.

## INSPECTION WORK IN CANNERY PRODUCTS WILL SHOW INCREASE

PRELIMINARY reports show that there will be an increase this year in cannery products inspection work which is conducted by the Department of Agriculture, over that of last year when an all-time high was reached. The increase in the number of inspectors required to carry on the inspections which are now being planned by growers and canneries is now placed at 26 percent above the number engaged last year.

The increases are shown in the number of inspectors who will be engaged in inspection of sweet corn, this number going from four last year to eight this season, an increase of one in inspection of grapes, an increase from four to ten in inspection of peas, from one to twoin snap beans, from 33 to 37 in inspection of tomatoes, and an increase from two to four in the inspection of berries.

Each year more growers and canneries arrange for inspection of their products as the result of the great benefits which are shown for the canner and the farmer in the grading of the products. Better prices result for the producer and graded products are in greater demand on the markets at better prices. This has been forcibly demonstrated in the case of Pennsylvania potatoes, the major part of this State's crop being sold under grade. In spite of the bumper crop last year and the great surpluses which exist in many sections of the country, Pennsylvania growers have disposed of most of their crops.

According to preliminary reports there will be a slight increase this year in the acreage for the growing of peas. Indications are that peas will be planted on 7,140 acres as compared to 7,000 acres last year. Planting conditions and the season will however, have much influence on the actual acreage which will be planted. Favorable conditions point to an increase.

## CONDUCT SCHOOL FOR DEPT. INSPECTORS

THE annual fruit and vegetable inspectors training school conducted by the Department of Agriculture was held recently at the Pennsylvania State College. The school is conducted in cooperation with the College Extension Service and the faculty of the Agricultural school at the college.

It is expected that a greater number of inspectors will be licensed this year than previously according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, to replace those who have been selected in the military draft and others who have entered industrial employment under the defense program. Because of the indicated increase in canning crop acreages this year, it is expected that a considerable increase in the number of inspectors operating in the Department of Agriculture will be necessary.

## REDUCE ACREAGE IN ERIE CABBAGE AREA

A CONSIDERABLE reduction of Danish cabbage acreage is expected in the Waterford, Erie Co., area of Pennsylvania while in central and eastern truck crop areas growers indicate that they will plant more this year according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. Low prices for the 1940 crop and a probable shortage of farm labor in 1941 are contributory factors. Throughout truck areas, growers have indicated that they intend to plant a smaller acreage of domestic cabbage in 1941. The largest decline in acreage is expected in the Waterford, Erie Co., area. There are no other areas where large decreases are in prospect, but rather small acreage decreases are generally anticipated.

### R. I. REDS LEADING

WITH a total of 1,868.55 points and 1,784 eggs laid, a pen of Rhode Island Reds was leading on the 25th week of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest. Second on the list at the end of that week was also a pen of Rhode Island Reds with 1,853.10 points and 1,782 eggs laid. During that week a pen of Single Comb White Leghorns led with a production of 75 eggs and being credited with 81.35 points.



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1941

## APPLES STORED IN PA. UP 207,000 BUSHELS OVER APRIL 1, 1940

ACCORDING to reports to the Department of Agriculture the only commodity in cold storage which showed an increase during March was eggs, the net increase throughout the country for the month being 784,000 cases of shell eggs and 18,191,000 pounds of frozen egg meats, or a total case equivalent increase of 1,304,000. All other cold storage items indicated substantial withdrawals.

Apple stocks were reduced by the equivalent of about six and one-half million bushels; frozen fruits and berries by nearly 16 million pounds; frozen vegetables seven and one half million pounds; creamery butter seven and one half million pounds; frozen poultry about 36½ million pounds.

Stocks of apples on April 1 this year totaled 10,603,000 bushels, exceeding those of a year earlier by two million bushels and the five-year, 1936-40 average by about one million bushels. Creamery butter stocks of 8,987,000 pounds on April 1 were about 100,000 pounds above those of a year earlier but 14 million pounds below average. Egg holdings, both shell and frozen, totaling the equivalent of 2,903,000 cases, were 786,000 cases above those of April 1, 1940 and 2,000 cases above average.

Cold storage holdings in Pennsylvania on April 1 were as follows: Cream, 5,000 gal-quart cans; 1,189,000 pounds of butter; 1,820,000 pounds American cheese; 20,000 cases of eggs; 2,831,000 pounds frozen eggs; 5,261,000 pounds of poultry.

Apple holdings in cold storage in this state on April 1 totaled 601,000 bushels representing 1,000 barrels, 10,000 boxes Western apples, 178,000 Eastern apples, and 410,000 baskets. Holdings on April 1 last year totaled 394,000 bushels.

## PENNA. FARMERS HAVE LARGE GRAIN STOCKS

ACCORDING to reports issued by the State Department of Agriculture, stocks of corn, wheat and oats on farms in Pennsylvania are relatively large despite the high feeding rate to livestock during the past Winter. The percentage of corn of marketable quality is low this Spring because of the late harvest last Fall which made it necessary for much of the crop to be stored soft and molds have developed. Germination tests show a low percentage of healthy seed in the corn saved for planting this year.

Department figures show that on April 1 there were 17,153,000 bushels of corn on Pennsylvania farms as compared with 18,348,000 bushels a year ago and the previous 10-year average of 16,245,000. Wheat on the farms amounted to 3,321,000 bushels compared with 3,302,000 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 4,064,000 bushels. There were 10,432,000 bushels of oats compared with 10,984,000 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 10,447,000 bushels.

## NEW RECORD SEEN IN CHICK PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION of commercial hatchery chicks is continuing at the high levels reported for the first two months of 1941, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture.

A preliminary summary of reports so far received from commercial hatcheries indicates that approximately seven percent more eggs were set and 14 percent more chicks were hatched in March this year than in March 1940. The hatch will probably exceed the previous high March record of 1939 by two to three percent. Reports on April 1 indicated 24 percent more chicks on advance order than at the same time last year.

General conditions in the poultry industry continue to favor a heavy demand for hatchery chicks during the remainder of the current hatchery season. The egg situation has changed rapidly during the past month. Prices at the principal terminal markets have advanced three to four cents per dozen. As a result, the feed-egg ration, which is an important factor in determining the demand for chicks at this time of the year, is much more favorable to producers compared with a year earlier and to the 10-year 1930-39 average than it was earlier in the season. The market for poultry meat continues steady to firm at prices which are also inducive to increased production. On the whole, present conditions indicate that the hatch this year will probably be the largest of record.

## CANNED DRIED CORN ANOTHER PA. PRODUCT IN GREATER DEMAND

CANNED dried sweet corn is a comparatively new Pennsylvania cannery product which is making great strides commercially according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. For many years dehydrated sweet corn has been sold on the retail markets, most of it having been produced in the Eastern part of the State. A few years ago the dehydrated or dried corn was soaked and canned, making it ready for use the same as regular canned corn. Today this product has made great inroads in the dried corn sales and the demand is greatly increasing. Production is confined largely to canneries in Lancaster County.

Three of the canneries have arranged for grading and inspection by Department of Agriculture inspectors of the corn they will purchase this year. This will be the first time that inspection service has been arranged for by canners of that product. One of the canneries has arranged to purchase the entire output of a concern which produces only dehydrated corn. The cannery will can that corn as well as dry and can corn from 250 acres for which it has contracted.

## FARM LABOR SUPPLY REACHES LOW LEVEL

FARM labor in Pennsylvania on April 1 was reported as the lowest since supply and demand records became available in 1923 and current demand was the greatest excepting for April 1, 1923, according to the Federal-State reports issued by the State Department of Agriculture. The current supply, reported at 69 percent of normal shows a great change from the figure of a year ago when it was 90 percent and the demand, at 94 percent of normal compares with 84 percent a year ago, showing a complete reversal in the situation since April, 1940.

Wages paid farm labor are still low in relation to industrial wages, which is said to reflect the depressed farm prices. However, farm wages by the month, the basic method of hiring season or year-round help, have increased sharply during the past 12 months. The monthly wage with board on April 1 was reported to be $29.50 as compared with $26.75 a year ago and without board the wage this year was $46.25 as compared with $42.50 on April 1 last year. The daily wage with board increased from $1.65 to $1.80 and without board from $2.20 to $2.35.

The low price level for farm products and the closely related low wages are said to be making industrial jobs attractive to men otherwise available for farm work while the military service is also absorbing some of them.

## GRASSES, GRAINS IN PROMISING CONDITION

GRASSES and Winter grains on Pennsylvania farms are making a promising start according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. Pastures, meadows and grain fields planted last Fall are reported by the Federal-State Crop Service to be in very good condition, there having been sufficient snow coverage during the Winter to afford protection to the grains from severe temperatures and little damage to wheat and rye is indicated.

Wheat production is expected to be nearly equal to the average of the past 10 years. Indications are that the 1941 harvest will yield 19,168,000 bushels compared with 18,594,000 last year on about the same amount of acreage.

### TEMPERATURE ABOVE NORMAL

THE average temperature for the State during the week ended April 15 was 10 or more degrees above normal.

## INDICATE INCREASED SPINACH PRODUCTION THIS SEASON IN PA.

ALTHOUGH spinach supplies from the second early states which are Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, are expected to be lighter than they were last year, spinach acreage and indicated production in this State show a slight increase, according to Federal-State reports issued by the State Department of Agriculture. Reports indicate an estimated prospective total production of 2,857,000 bushels for this Spring's crop, which is seven percent smaller than the 1940 Spring crop of 3,062,000 bushels. The Spring crop in this State began moving to market between April 10 and 15.

The Pennsylvania acreage for second early spinach for this year is 1,750 as compared with 1,700 acres last year and the 10-year average, 1930-39 of 1,160 acres. The indicated yield per acre this year is 320 bushels as compared with a yield of 300 bushels last year and 314 bushels as the previous 10-year average. Production this year is placed at 560,000 bushels, compared with 510,000 bushels last year and a 10-year average of 358,000 bushels.

Strawberry acreage in Pennsylvania this year is placed at 5,000 as compared with 4,900 last year and a 10-year average of 4,070 acres. Production in this State last year was 490,000 24-quart crates as compared with a previous 10-year average of 279,000 crates. Yield per acre last year was 100 crates.

Total production in the second early states is expected to be unusually large. With an increase of 22 percent over the 1940 acreage and good yields indicated by April 1 conditions, the prospective production for this year is 4,328,000 crates compared with 3,101,000 crates last year.

## FARM PRICES DROP DURING PAST MONTH

FIGURED on a pre-war base of 100, March 1910-14, the index of prices of all Pennsylvania farm products on March 15 this year was 118 as compared with 121 a month previously and 119 a year ago. On the same basis, the prices paid by farmers for the things he buys was 123 on March 15 which shows no change from the two previous periods. The farmers' purchasing power is placed at 96 as compared with 98 a month earlier and 97 a year previously.

Prices of the principal commodities on March 15 were as follows: Per bushel, wheat, .90; corn, .71; oats, .42; barley, .59; rye, .66; potatoes, .60; apples, .85; hay, $9.80 per ton; hundredweight, hogs, $7.70; beef cattle, $8.30; beef calves, $10.30; sheep, $4.05; lambs, $9.40; per head, milk cows, $83.; horses, $113; mules, $118; per pound, chickens, .174; turkeys, .23; butter, .30; wool, .38; and eggs .191 per dozen.

## SUGGEST PREVENTION FOR CHICK DISEASE

AMONG the diseases which affect baby chicks during the early days of brooding is amphalitis, better known as navel-ill and frequently referred to as navel infection according to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. The disease usually occurs during the first three days of brooding and if the chick survives, will have run its course in about one week. After the chicks are two weeks old little or no trouble is experienced from the disease, but those having suffered from it may be stunted in growth and resistance to other diseases lowered.

In severe cases chicks die suddenly without showing any symptoms. The tissues in the navel region are found to be swollen and blood-tinged with a scab often covering the unhealed navel opening. It is the opening which is an open wound at hatching and therefore a favorable place for infection, particularly in unsanitary surroundings.

Treatment of affected chicks is of little value. Prevention is the only effective control measure and must include adequate and frequent cleaning and disinfection of the incubators, hatching compartments and brooders. Twenty-four hours of proper formaldehyde fumigation of the incubator equipment between hatches using tripled amounts of formalin and potassium permanganate will destroy all type of bacteria which may be associated wtih navel infections.



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## GIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTION OF DISASTROUS TERMITES

TERMITES, frequently referred to as "white ants," are not true ants, and ay be distinguished by a difference in dy structure, having the appearance of all roaches, according to the Bureau of lant Industry of the Department of griculture. They are capable of much ore damage than ants and are more ifficult to control.

Several insect pests may at times be nfused with termites. Most of the her wood feeders either make holes in he surface of the wood or throw out wdust-like castings. Termites seldom ve openings to the outside and sawdust stings are never in evidence, but a terial resembling wood putty is evi- nt on both the inside and outside of fested wood.

Termite damage is always hidden in- le the wood since the wingless workers like light and generally remain under ver. The destructive species nests in ground and cannot live without isture. They always have a contact tween the building and the soil. For is purpose they are able to construct lter tubes along the sides of the build- s and also work their way through cks in defective masonry or through od foundations. Where new buildings proposed, it is desirable to eliminate od from foundations, cellars or base- nts. Timber or lumber can be safely d if it is raised above soil contact with suitable amount of rock, concrete or ick, or if each support is capped with an ulating metal shield. Infestations by rmites are usually discovered after they ve done considerable damage. Killing swarming winged adults may help to event the founding of new colonies, t will not stop the destruction inside woodwork by the remaining workers.

Suggestions for prevention are to keep woodwork away from contact with the ound, support untreated wood above ground on a barrier of concrete, sonry laid in cement mortar, or wood t has been impregnated with chemical od preservatives toxic to termites, h as creosote or some of the coal tar oducts, fill cracks in concrete, masonry lls, floors and foundations with cement rtar, maintain a metal shield as a rrier below wood to be insulated from ground when necessary and provide quate drainage of soil beneath and und any structure susceptible to mite attack.

Suggestions for repair and control are close all avenues between ground and material to be protected by imposing riers of metal, concrete or chemically ated wood, remove all structural un- nd materials and destroy all material ich contains termites, poison the und at point where termite runways ve it. For this purpose any of the lowing chemicals are suggested: Satu- ed aqueous solution of copper sulphate of sodium fluosilicate, a saturated eous solution of borax, full strength de liquid orthodichlorobenzene, or ystalline paradichlorobenzene.

## SMALL FARMS SHOW BIG INCREASE IN PA.

HE 1940 census figures just released reveal some interesting trends in the of farms in Pennsylvania, according Secretary John H. Light of the De- ment of Agriculture. The average m in 1940 was 86 acres compared with acres in 1930. In that year 172,419 ms were enumerated; 191,224 in 1935 d 169,027 in 1940, a net decrease of o percent in 10 years. The number of ms of less than 10 acres increased percent and the increase in the number farms from 10 to 20 acres is 10 percent. other size groups combined, except ms of over 5,000 acres which increased number from two to six, declined six cent.

## NEW PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ISSUED

NEW Directory of Information has just been published by the Pennsyl- ia Department of Agriculture and is ilable to persons interested. The blication contains information about various department bureaus and the vices rendered, a list of publications ilable from the State Department of Agriculture, from the Pennsylvania State College and from the Federal Government, and the names of State and County agricultural organizations and the secretaries. A list of the American Breed Record Associations is also included.

## SEEDS USED IN PA. EACH YEAR VALUED AT MANY MILLIONS

IT is estimated that the value of farm and garden seeds planted and sown each year in Pennsylvania is between eight million and 10 million dollars, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The vastness of this sum may indicate to some extent the tremendous scale of the agricultural industry in this State.

The value of hay, wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye and buckwheat seed alone is estimated at approximately five million dollars and normally the value of the seed potatoes planted each year in this State is placed at $2,500,000. In addition to these seeds are vegetable seeds planted in home gardens and on commercial farms, flower seeds planted in home gardens and commercially and lawn grass seeds.

## INCREASE SHOWN IN EGGS, BABY CHICKS

THE same situation which existed in February prevailed again in March when the monthly number of eggs per layer on farms in this State showed an increase over that of a year previously, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. On April 1, according to Federal-State reports there were 14,254,000 layers on Pennsylvania farms compared with 14,802,000 on April 1, 1940. The total egg production of 229,000,000 was the same on both dates. During March this year the monthly number of eggs per layer was 16.1 as compared with 15.5 a year previously.

This same condition prevailed throughout the country, the egg production being reported as the largest for March since 1931. The number of layers was three percent smaller but there was a four percent higher rate of egg production per layer.

The first report this year on numbers of young chicks on hand in farm flocks shows a considerable increase compared with last year. In Pennsylvania the average number of chicks per flock on April 1 was three percent higher than a year ago. The early hatchings last year, however, was disproportionally small.

Commercial hatchery reports also indicate a much larger early hatch this year than last. However, improving egg prices during the hatching season, with better demand for both chickens and eggs, are stimulating chicken production and may result in a considerable increase in hatchings over earlier intentions.

## PA. MILK PRODUCTION TOPS 12-YEAR MARK

ACCORDING to Federal-State reports, average production per cow in herds kept by Pennsylvania farmers was 18.1 pounds on April 1 which was the highest in 12 years, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. Similar heavy production was reported throughout the country but heavy consumption of dairy products was also reported.

With the supply of feed grain on farms slightly above that of a year ago, hay reserves relatively large and prospects for crops and pastures generally favorable, conditions are said to be favorable for heavy milk production for some months. Prices of feed have been rising but high protein feeds are still relatively cheap and up to mid-April feed grains were about equal to prices at that time last year.

The index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for dairy products on March 15 was 144, a little higher than the corresponding date a year ago. Prices for fluid milk wholesale were equal to the same period in 1940 but butter, butterfat and retail milk were all higher.

## CONTAMINATED SOILS ARE SOURCE OF SOME ANIMAL DISEASES

BACTERIA in the soil have a direct relation to diseases in cattle it is pointed out by chemists at the laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Almost all soils, it is stated, in the upper layers to a depth of probably 10 to 20 feet contain bacteria of various kinds, dependent upon the kind and nature of the soil and the amounts of moisture and organic matter they contain. Many species of the bacteria are harmless from the standpoint of animal diseases and are necessary in soil preparation and the growth of various plants.

In most cases the bacteria capable of causing diseases in animals are in the surface layers of the soil, the most important are present in spores and are found only in soil in certain localities. Porous soils containing much organic matter are the most favorable to the development of disease producing bacteria.

The more important diseases, sometimes considered as soil borne diseases are anthrax, blackleg and malignant edema. Others caused by bacteria which are widely distributed are tetanus or lockjaw and botulism. Other bacteria which are believed to live for a considerable time and possibly multiply in the soil, are those causing hemorrhagic septicemia, swine erysipelas, setinomycosis, necrotic enteritis, foot rot in sheep, necrotic stomatitis and many of the diseases caused by parasites.

Practically all other bacterial diseases may be caused in susceptible animals by contacts with soils recently contaminated on the surface with specific bacteria causing diseases, provided the soils have not been exposed to sunlight or some other influence capable of destroying the bacteria. Tuberculosis and Bang disease belong to this group, as well as some of the virus diseases of which hog cholera is an example. Surface soils may become contaminated by excrements of afflicted animals, by carcasses of animals, materials of animal origin from diseased animals when used for fertilizer, by materials carried on the shoes of persons or by any materials or equipment carried to other premises, particularly by healthy animals and birds.

Any of the diseases of the group caused by spore forming germs may occasionally occur following construction and repair work on previously contaminated premises. Cases of anthrax have been known to occur on an adjoining premise when soil from excavations was dumped on the adjoining premise; also this accounts for occasional cases of anthrax following excavation with alteration of old barns and in new barns soon after they have been occupied by livestock.

## HONEY BEES BENEFIT BY ADVANCED SPRING

THE early Summer weather which has caused many blooms to be advanced, has been a boon to the honey bee according to the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. It is during April that the bees begin bringing into the hive nectar and pollen for the purpose of building up the colony of sufficient numbers to gather nectar later in the season. A backward season with a resultant lack of bloom will prevent the development of the colony to a point where a good honey crop can be produced.

During the first warm days of Spring the bees gather nectar and pollen from the alder, willow, maple, dandelion and fruit bloom. Any location without this source of nectar and pollen, is unsuitable for maintaining bees at a profit. Much of the loss of bees during the early Spring is due to a lack of early Spring flowers from which sustenance for the bee is gathered.

The principal crop of commercial honey is gleaned by the bees from the middle of May to the first of July. The surplus honey during that period is had chiefly from the clovers, basswood, tulips and locust.

The honeys gathered during the first of the season are not of a fine flavor but are suitable for feeding the young bees. Under normal conditions a colony of 15,000 bees will develop into a cluster of 50,000 bees which will gather the main honey flow later in the season.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

Vol. 26 Harrisburg, May 15, 1941 No. 20

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MAY 15 1941

## SAFEGUARDS URGED AFTER OUTBREAK OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

IMPORTANCE to the herdsman and farmer of thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting his premises following an outbreak of contagious diseases is pointed to by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

Disinfection as it is usually practiced is said to be misleading and worthless. Careless disinfecting is little better than none at all. Thorough cleaning is of as much importance as the disinfecting, as disinfectants cannot destroy germs with which they do not come in contact.

Following the removal of infected animals, the stables should be thoroughly cleaned as follows by sweeping ceilings, walls, and floor; removing rotten woodwork and loose boards, particularly of the floor; making necessary replacements and repairing broken concrete; removing dried accumulations about the mangers, floors and drains. Floors of the stable should be thoroughly cleaned.

The yard should be cleaned of all manure and removed to the fields, plowing it in, or if permitted to remain on the surface it should be spread lightly. Cattle or swine should not have access to the field until after the sun has had an opportunity to kill the germs.

Mangers, feed boxes, stalls and partitions should be scrubbed with hot water containing strong soap, lye, or washing soda. Disinfection is then done by applying approved liquid disinfectant solutions to the ceiling, walls, stalls, partitions, etc., as well as to the floor.

The most common disinfectant used is a two per cent solution of Cresol, which is one quart of Cresol to 50 quarts of water.

Another very common disinfectant is Chloride of lime, six ounces to each gallon of water.

A number of progressive herd owners clean and disinfect their premises at regular intervals even though no infection exists. They consider it a part of good herd management.

## REPORT INCREASES IN TOMATO ACREAGE

A CONSIDERABLE increase in acreage for tomatoes to be grown this year in Pennsylvania for canneries over that of 1940 is indicated in reports to the State Department of Agriculture. Canneries of this State have announced that they will comply as fully as possible with the recent request of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in which it was urged that tomato plantings be increased 50 percent in order to secure an additional 5 million cases of canned tomatoes, mostly for use under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Defense law. The canners and growers, however, have stated that they face some uncertainty because of a possible labor shortage and increased costs of production.

Although the canneries announced that there is no assurance of increased prices for the canned product they have increased prices to the growers, many of them reporting that they will pay $20 a ton for U. S. No. 1's and $11 a ton for U. S. No. 2's which is an increase to the grower of from $2 to $3 a ton over 1940 prices.

One large cannery has announced that it has contracted for an additional 1,000 acres of tomatoes in Lebanon and Lancaster counties and another cannery has increased the number of its receiving stations from two last year to five this year. It is believed that the total increase in acreage this year will be about 5,000 acres. The acreage last year was placed at 20,000.

## REPORT VEGETABLES GREATLY ADVANCED

THE warm weather has advanced early vegetable growth considerably according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The condition of asparagus in the Eastern area is good and some light cuttings were made starting about April 20. The peak volume production of wintered-over spinach in the Eastern section was earlier than usual but some fields suffered extensive damage from high winds and low temperatures during March which lowered the yield.

## DRIED PA. POTATOES BEING WIDELY SOLD ON RETAIL MARKETS

COMMERCIAL production of a new product, dried Pennsylvania potatoes, has reached a point where it is being quite widely sold on the retail market, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. Bids for large quantities for use by the armed forces are also being received by the manufacturers.

The new product is expected to win high favor with urban consumers where time and labor are important factors in the preparation of meals. The new product is prepared for use as mashed potatoes, potato cakes and many other potato dishes in a short time by merely cooking in water for a short time.

It is generally believed that the process has excellent possibilities for the utilization of Pennsylvania potatoes which because of size or minor defects do not meet the requirements of first grade for the fresh potato market.

## STOCKS OF WHEAT IN U. S. BREAK RECORDS. DECREASE IN PENNA.

STOCKS of wheat in interior mills, elevators and warehouses on April 1, 1941 are estimated by the Federal Crop Reporting Board at 131,247,000 bushels, the highest on record for that date. On April 1, 1940 stocks were 80,997,000 bushels and the nine-year average stocks, April 1, 1931-39, were 71,173,000 bushels. Stocks of wheat in these positions have continued at a record high level since the 1940 crop movement started.

In Pennsylvania, wheat stocks in interior mills, elevators and warehouses on April 1 amounted to 720,000 bushels, compared with 770,000 bushels on the comparable date last year and the previous nine-year average of 887,000 bushels, according to the State Department of Agriculture.

April 1 stocks were especially heavy in the important hard red winter and hard red spring wheat States, being approximately twice as large as on that date a year ago. April 1 stocks of wheat on farms in that area were also at record high levels.

Combining stocks on wheat in interior mills, elevators and warehouses with those held on farms April 1, gives a total of 327,002,000 bushels compared with April 1, 1940 stocks of 234,773,000 bushels and the nine-year, 1931-39, average of 201,645,000 bushels.

## EXPOSITION PLANNED IN FARM SHOW BLDG.

THE fifth annual exposition of the Northeastern Poultry Producers' Council will be held in the Pennsylvania Farm Show Building October 8, 9, 10 and 11, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. The expositions of the organizations in each of the first three years were held in New York, and in Atlantic City, N. J., in each of the past two years.

The council covers an area of 13 states, comprising the New England States, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. The headquarters are in Trenton, N. J., Leon Todd of that city is the managing director and R. F. Thurrel of Wolfeboro, N. H., is the president.

The council is an educational organization devoted to the development of improved methods in the poultry industry and in the promotion of eggs and poultry as food.

Most of the exhibits of poultry at the exposition will be those of the leading breeders. There will also be exhibits of poultry equipment, feeds and remedies.

### SEED ACREAGE GREATER

A SURVEY shows that 300,760 acres will be devoted this year to the growing of vegetable seeds in the United States, which is an increase of 41 percent over the 1940 acreage.

## ORDERS EXTENSION OF QUARANTINE FOR JAPANESE BEETLE

CHANGES in the Pennsylvania Japanese Beetle Quarantine, bringing it in line with similar changes in the Federal Quarantine, have been announced by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. Certain areas are added in the northwestern part of the State, as well as several townships in the generally infested area in the southeastern counties. With these additions, all of Pennsylvania is now affected by the quarantine except the following;

All of Erie County remains outside the quarantine, except the City of Erie, and Millcreek, Wayne and Concord Townships; all of Crawford County remains outside, except the three eastern Townships of Sparta, Rome and Oil Creek; the northern half of Mercer County, including the townships of Sandy Lake, Lake, Fairview, Delaware, Pymatuning, South Pymatuning and all townships north of these are unaffected by the change.

To the generally infested southeastern area has been added the following townships; Lower Allen and the borough of New Cumberland in Cumberland County; Fairview, Newberry, Conewago, East Manchester, Hellam, Lower Windsor, Chanceford, East Hopewell, Hopewell, and Fawn in York County; Richmond, and Maxatawny in Berks County; Upper Macungie, South Whitehall, Whitehall, Salisbury and Hanover in Lehigh County and Lower Nazareth, Hanover, Bethlehem, Palmer and Forks in Northampton County. In all of these latter areas, as well as in the southeastern area previously under similar restriction, all fruits and vegetables transported by motor truck or refrigerator car, require certification for shipment to points outside the Quarantine Area, during the period from June 15 to October 15.

In the remaining counties and townships affected, no restrictions are placed on movement of fruits and vegetables. Nursery stock and other plants, soil, compost, sand, manure, etc., may not be moved at any time of year, to points outside the Quarantine Area, without certification, the same as under the previous Quarantine. This revision will become effective May 15.

## PRICES ADVANCE ON PA. FARM PRODUCTS

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased two points during the month ended April 15, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. At 121 percent of the 1910-14 level in mid-April farmers of this State were receiving prices averaging two points above those of a month earlier and four points above those of a year previously. Taking the 1910-14 period as the base of 100 farmers in this State were paying 124 on April 15 for the things they buy while their purchasing power stood at 98. In each instance there is an increase of one point over a month previously but purchasing power was up three points and the cost of things they buy was 123 on April 15, 1940.

Prices of principal commodities on April 15 were: Bushel-wheat, .93; corn, .75; oats, .45; barley, .60; rye, .66; buckwheat, .57; potatoes, .60; apples, .95; hay, $9.80 ton; hundredweight—hogs, $8; beef cattle, $8.40; veal calves, $10.50; sheep, $4; lambs, $9.40; pound—chickens, .176; turkeys, .23; butter, .32; wool, .38 and eggs, .222. Milk cows were listed at $82, horses, $112 and mules at $119 per head.

## LARGE INCREASE IN CATTLE ON FEED

THE number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 was 16 percent larger than a year earlier, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. The number on feed was the largest for April 1 since the droughts of 1934 and 1936 reduced cattle feeding to the lowest level in recent years. The movement of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt for the first three months of this year was probably the largest for this period for all years.

### OUTLOOK NOT GOOD

THE early honey flow was exceptionally heavy but the outlook for the late flow is not so good.



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NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE LIBRARY MAY 26 1941

## PENNA. LEADS U. S. IN FARMERS' INCOME FROM SALE OF EGGS

CHICKEN production in Pennsylvania in 1940 amounted to 23,502,000 birds, placing this State in 10th position among all the states in chicken production, but in third position in the farm cash income received from the sales of chickens, according to the Federal-State report of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Production in 1939 amounted to 26,810,000 birds. Of the number produced last year 4,804 birds were consumed in the farm household and 19,548,000 were sold from which a cash income of $13,684,000 was received by the Farmer. With an average price per head of 70 cents the value of the birds consumed in the farm household was $3,363,000.

On January 1 this year the inventory in Pennsylvania farms amounted to 17,348,000 hens and pullets and 1,879,000 other chickens, making a total of 19,227,000 birds which had a value of $17,112,000. This inventory compared with 17,989,000 hens and pullets and 2,088,000 other chickens or a total of 20,077,000 birds which had a value of $17,266,000.

In the number of eggs produced on farms last year Pennsylvania held fourth place among all the states but ranked first in the cash farm income from the sale of eggs. The number produced was approximately 2,042,000,000, of which 1,774,000,000 eggs were sold which provided a cash farm income of $33,410,000. Of the total number of eggs produced approximately 10 million were used on the farm for hatching, and 258 million were consumed in the farm household, the value of the latter having been placed at $4,859,000. The average price per dozen received by the farmer was 22.6 cents.

Reports indicate a considerable increase in the number of chickens this year. Hatcheries throughout the country reported the number of chicks booked on May 1 for later delivery to be 65 percent larger than on the same date a year previous and a record number of chicks for this month is anticipated. The number of eggs set during April was 10 percent larger than in April last year.

## SUGGEST METHODS OF BAG WORM CONTROL

METHODS for the control of the bag worm, a serious pest of shade and fruit trees, have been issued by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. The infested tree should be thoroughly sprayed with arsenate of lead used at the rate of two pounds in 50 gallons of water. It is important that the spray be applied while the caterpillars are quite small since the species is difficult to control when the caterpillars become older. One application of the arsenate of lead is usually sufficient to give complete control if applied as indicated. On small trees a fair measure of control may be had by collecting the bags by hand and destroying them.

As the common name suggests, the bagworm is identified by the bag-like structure within which the insect lives during the worm or caterpillar stage. The bag is formed soon after the small caterpillar begins to feed and is enlarged as the caterpillar increases in size. Also attacks many other plants but shows preference for black locust, junipers and arborvitae.

The wingless female deposits her eggs in the bag in which she developed and never leaves this bag. The eggs hatch sometime in May, leave the old bag, and begin at once to feed on leaves. As they feed they cover themselves with a silken cover to which are attached on the outside small bits of stems and leaves. The outside of the bag is modified in appearance by the difference in the foliage of the particular tree upon which they may be feeding. The caterpillars and their bags reach their full growth usually sometime in August. The bags when completely finished may be as much as two inches long and are firmly attached to twigs by silken threads. Just before pupating the bags up the caterpillars become sluggish and migrate considerable distances taking the bags with them. Frequently these wanderings carry them to other trees in the immediate vicinity. The male moths are winged and are capable of considerable flight.

## BEGIN INSPECTIONS OF 7,630 APIARIES IN CENTRAL PENNA.

THE annual apiary inspection was started the first week in May by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture, following the program established last year by Secretary John H. Light under which the entire State will be completely inspected each three years. Previously the work was carried on without a definite plan resulting in some areas of the State not having been inspected for more than five years.

The program this year includes 24 counties through the central part of the State in which there are 7,630 apiaries comprising 54,610 colonies of bees, all of which will undergo inspection during this season. Cooperation of the county bee keepers' associations and of the individual bee keepers is given the inspectors in learning the locations of all colonies in the various areas as a number of changes occur during the year.

In addition to the 24 counties in this year's program inspections will also be made in Lehigh, Columbia and Montgomery counties where appropriations to provide for inspections have been made by the Boards of County Commissioners. These counties will also be included in the State program next year.

Eight inspectors are now in the field engaged in the work. Some of them are devoting the first period to checking back on the inspection work done last year in the 18 counties in the Western section of the State. There were approximately the same number of colonies in that area as are in the section to be covered this year. In that area the inspectors are checking those cases in which reports have not been received by the Bureau from the beekeeper relative to the execution of work in compliance with regulations which was ordered to be done at the time of the inspection.

## PENNA. POTATO CROP FINDS READY MARKET

IN commenting on reports that the marketing of the 1940 crop of Pennsylvania potatoes is nearing completion, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture commented that "What was expected to be an unsatisfactory marketing season by reason of the heavy potato crop in this State and in all other potato growing areas, has proved to be a most satisfactory one for Pennsylvania growers, as the result of the strong demands for Pennsylvania potatoes throughout the Winter months." This increased demand, the Secretary attributed to the vastly improved grading methods which have been urged by the Department of Agriculture and he commends the growers and shippers for their wide acceptance of this method of marketing which has resulted in better quality of the consumer and an ever increasing demand for Pennsylvania potatoes.

## PENNA. FARM PRICES SAME AS LAST YEAR

THE farm real estate values in Pennsylvania, except for the slight recession in 1939, have gradually been recovering from the low level of 1933, and, though no improvement over 1940 is indicated for the current year, the index is now 90 percent of the 1912-14 base, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture.

Demand for farms is relatively slow, but inquiries are reported numerous, mostly from persons employed in industry who are looking to the future. The percentage down payment required apparently has increased, and this, together with the limited sources of credit, has had a tendency to reduce purchases.

The estimated average value per acre of Pennsylvania farms on March 1, in terms of 100 percent as representing the value in 1912-14, was 90 percent as compared with 140 in 1920; 107 in 1930 and 82 in 1935.

### FROST KILLS CHERRIES

IN some localities Northwest of the mountains, sweet cherries have been killed and prospects for sour varieties have been sharply reduced by the frost. In the Erie Belt, grape vines in vineyards with poor air drainage were injured by frosts.

## TEST 54,889 CATTLE FOR BANG DISEASE DURING PAST MONTH

DURING the month of April 4, 175 herds comprising 54,889 cattle were tested for Bang disease under the Individual and Modified Area Plans, according to the report of the Bureau of Animal Industry to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. Of the total number of cattle tested 2,098 in 739 herds were found to be affected with the disease.

The report also shows that as of April 30 all the cattle six months of age or over in 504 townships of 29 counties have been tested for Bang disease and that at that time a total of 5,798 herds comprising 118,236 cattle have qualified as Bang Disease Free Accredited herds and 67,134 herds with a total of 575,629 cattle are operating under Federal-State supervision for Bang disease control in accordance with the provisions of the Individual and Modified Area Plans. During the month Initial Area testing was completed in 30 townships in Huntingdon County and eight townships in Blair County.

All the cattle in the following counties have been tested: Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Venango, Wyoming, Clinton, Armstrong, Clearfield, Juniata, Lawrence and Huntingdon. All of these counties are Modified Accredited Bang's Disease Free Areas, except Lawrence and Huntingdon.

In addition to the cattle which have been tested the report shows that there are 96 herds comprising 885 goats in this State tested for Bang disease and under State supervision for the control of that disease.

## 1940 WHEAT VALUE OVER 15 MILLIONS

A PRELIMINARY report of the production, farm disposition and value of the 1940 Pennsylvania wheat crop has just been released by Secretary John H. Light of the State Department of Agriculture. The total production is placed at 18,789,000 bushels, the value of which is given as $15,219,000 compared with a total production in 1939 of 19,236,000 bushels which had a value of $15,581,000. The average price per bushel received by farmers was 81 cents which was the same as the price received the year previously.

It is shown that a total of 1,890,000 bushels of wheat were used for seed 1,701,000 bushels having been used for that purpose on the farms where the grain was grown. A total of 6,388,000 bushels were fed to livestock, 684,000 bushels were ground at mills for home use or exchanged for flour, and 10,016,000 bushels were sold. The value of the wheat used for household use is placed at $554,000. The value of the wheat sold is given as $8,113,000.

## URGE SHEEP BE KEPT FREE OF PARASITES

THE importance of keeping sheep free of keds, more frequently referred to as sheep tick, is pointed to by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. The presence of a few keds may produce little apparent ill effects but with an increase of numbers comes appreciable loss. Estimates have been made which put the possible loss at 20 to 25 cents per sheep. Irritation and loss of blood reduce condition of flesh. The wool is damaged by scratching and rubbing. The fleece is further reduced in value by the presence of nits and the soiling and staining produced by keds.

The sheep ked is not a true tick, but a degenerate insect which has lost its power of flight and adopted a parasitic habit of life. They are common parasites of sheep in many parts of the world. They are occasionally found on goats but not on other animals. The average life of a ked is about four months. They are not highly prolific, a female ked producing only about 10 to 15 young.

Sheep heavily infested with keds should be dipped, using a commercial dip prepared for this purpose or a two to three percent solution of cresol. Shearing in warm weather will remove many of the keds and most of the nits. After allowing sufficient time for shearing injuries to heal the whole flock should be dipped.



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## NEARLY ENTIRE CROP OF PENNA. CORN USED ON PRODUCING FARMS

PENNSYLVANIA farmers use 90 percent of the corn they raise for household use, feed and seed, it is shown in the Federal-State report of production, farm disposition and value of crops issued by the State Department of Agriculture. Corn production last year totaled 53,640,000 bushels, a decrease of four and one-half million bushels below the 1939 crop. Of that total 48,137,000 bushels were used for feed and seed and 194,000 bushels were used in the household, leaving a total of 10 percent of the crop which was sold.

The total production throughout the United States also showed a decrease last year, the 1940 total being 2,449,200,000 bushels compared with 2,602,133,000 bushels in 1939. The average price per bushel for the country was .563.

The value of the 1940 Pennsylvania corn crop is placed at $38,621,000 compared with a total value of $40,117,000 for the 1939 crop. The season average price per bushel received by farmers last year was 72 cents compared with 69 cents the year previous. The value of the corn sold in 1940 was $3,822,000.

The rye crop last year in this State totaled 1,044,000 bushels, the total value of which is placed at $658,000. Of that production 84,000 bushels were used for feed on the farms where it was grown; 779,000 bushels were fed to livestock; 11,000 bushels were ground at mills for home use or exchanged for flour, and 170,000 bushels were sold. The season average price per bushel received by the farmer was 63 cents which brought the value of the sales of the grain to $170,000.

The total production of rye in the United States las year was 40,601,000 bushels compared with 39,049,000 bushels in 1939. The average price per bushel for the country was .381.

## COCCIDIOSIS CAUSES HEAVY POULTRY LOSS

SERIOUSNESS of the wide-spread disease known as Coccidiosis in chickens is pointed to by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture with the suggestion that sanitary measures are the only effective means of control. The disease is most harmful to chicks from three to 12 weeks of age, although older birds may also be seriously affected. Outbreaks are most likely to occur in the Spring and early summer months, particularly during periods of wet weather.

The disease is essentially one of the intestinal tract and may be divided into two types depending upon which part of the tract is involved. The so-called bloody type which the poultry man is most familiar attacks the blind pouches. The intestinal type which in some cases is called chronic coccidiosis affects the main portion of the intestines. This type usually occurs in older birds and is indicated by droopiness, paleness of the comb and wattles, blood tinged mucous in the droppings and wasting away of the bird, or "going light." The former type is most common among chicks from three to 12 weeks of age and is characterized by extensive bloody droppings. It usually appears suddenly in an apparently healthy flock.

Medicinal treatments are said to have little value in an attempt to effect a cure of the disease. Thorough cleansing of the house and all equipment and the daily removal and burning of the litter and droppings are important measures to eliminate the disease. Feeding and drinking utensils should be placed on dry platforms and the house kept as dry as possible.

## PLOWING, PLANTING GREATLY ADVANCED

ON May 1 plowing for Spring planting was 74 percent completed as compared with 42 percent on that date last year and Spring sowing and planting was 52 percent completed compared with 34 percent in 1940, according to the Federal-State report issued by the Department of Agriculture. With a deficiency of one and one-half inches, April was the fifth consecutive month to register rainfall deficiency.

The forecast for the wheat yield is placed at 21 bushels per acre as compared with 20.5 bushels last year, bringing the total yield to 19,152,000 bushels this year. Acreage is about the same. The rye yield is placed at 14.5 bushels, the same as last year. There is a decrease of about 3,000 acres.

## FEW PENNA. BREEDERS APPLY FOR PENS AT EGG LAYING CONTEST

A CLASSIFICATION of the entries for the 1941-42 Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest, conducted by the Department of Agriculture, shows that 50 percent of the pens available for pullets have already been reserved, 40 percent of the applications being from new contestants. Of the number of reservations made only nine pens to date have been reserved by Pennsylvania breeders. It is pointed out that in view of the fact that the contest was provided primarily for Pennsylvania breeders, the response to this time is not encouraging.

Assignments of pens are made on the basis of the order in which applications and deposits are received and it is being urged that breeders from this State act at once if they wish to enter the contest.

## WIDESPREAD DAMAGE CAUSED TO TREES BY WEATHER CONDITIONS

DURING recent weeks throughout this State many species of trees have shown wilted branches and in a number of cases the plants have died, resulting in many inquiries being received by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Among the species which show this condition are the Arbor Vitae, Taxus or Japanese Yew, pines, junipers and rhododendron. The wilting first appeared during the latter part of March and early April, the leaves of the injured plants having wilted and turned brown.

According to the Bureau the condition can be attributed entirely to unfavorable weather conditions during the Winter and Spring months. Similar injury is also being reported from other states and is being referred to as Winter drying. Factors involved in the Winter drying are that while most plants show a certain degree of Winter hardiness especially if they are exposed to gradually lowering temperatures as they enter the Winter, they cannot withstand sudden drops in temperature. During the last week in November and the first week in December, there was a two-week period during which the temperature dropped suddenly and undoubtedly caused damage to certain plants which was further aggravated by other climatic factors which involved the deficiency in rainfall which for the first four months of this year was more than four and one-half inches. Transpiration of moisture from plants during this period was probably not sufficient in itself to cause any serious damage but it further weakened certain plants.

Another factor was the sudden changes in temperature during March and April when there were periods of extreme cold and heat, accompanied at times by drying winds which caused more damage to already weakened plants. With these high winds coniferous plants that carry their leaves through the winter were unable to absorb enough moisture through the dry soil to replace the great amounts that were lost by transpiration through the leaf surface.

It is suggested that the dead material of affected plants be pruned after it becomes evident that no further growth will take place.

Feeding those plants that still show some signs of life may stimulate normal growth. Trees, shrubs and ornamental plants should be fertilized during spring and early summer. Late summer feeding may result in further injury next winter.

### LARGE HAY RESERVES

HAY reserves on farms are reported to be one and one-half times larger than last year at this time, but they are not considered excessive, considering the greater numbers of livestock.

Stocks on farms on May 1 totaled 455,000 tons, or 14 percent of the previous year's crop as compared with 267,000 tons, or 10 percent of the previous year's crop last year.

## EXPECT INSPECTION OF PENNA. PRODUCTS TO REACH NEW HIGH

THE 1941 inspection season of fruits and vegetables for canning and for fresh shipments by rail and truck will begin in Pennsylvania about June 9 with the inspection of peas for canning, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. The peak of the work is reached in September and October when a record number of inspectors will be employed, according to present prospects.

Requests for inspection will be greater than last year, when a high mark was reached, principally because of a rapidly increasing demand for the inspection of raw cannery products. The early prospects also point to a favorable moderately large crop of peaches and apples, the marketing of which will require many State-licensed inspectors. These men are trained, licensed and supervised by State or Federal-State officials but are employed by the State Horticultural Association.

During the 1940 season which is just closing 2,243 carlots of apples, peaches, grapes, celery and potatoes were inspected for shipment and 219 million pounds of cannery products, which comprised apples, peaches, tomatoes, cherries, raspberries, peas, corn, lima beans and snap beans, were certified. Most of the inspection work is done in Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Erie, Columbia, Franklin, Lehigh, Lebanon and York counties.

Pennsylvania has become one of the leading states in fruit growing and in the canning industry having attained second place last year in the production of peaches and ranking fourth as an apple state, and the trend upward is continuing. Secretary Light expressed great satisfaction over the fact that fruit and vegetable growers and canners of this State have taken a foremost position in relation to inspected and graded products which assures quality for the consumer with the result that there is a constantly increasing demand for products from this State.

## TURKEYS YIELD BIG INCOME TO FARMERS

THE cash income to Pennsylvania farmers from turkeys sold in 1940 amounted to $3,236,000 compared with $2,783,000 in 1939, according to the Federal-State report issued by the State Department of Agriculture. The number of turkeys raised last year was 923,000 of which 34,000 were consumed in the farm household and 899,000 were sold. The average price per head was $3.60 bringing the value of the turkeys consumed in the farm household to $122,000.

The number of turkeys raised in 1939 was 839,000 of which 37,000 were consumed in the farm household and 746,000 were sold. The average price per head was $3.73.

The number of turkeys on the farms of this State on January 1 was 17,000 less than on the comparable date a year previous. The number this year is given as 153,000 and on January 1, 1939 the number was 170,000.

The average weight per bird sold has been showing a steady increase throughout the country over the past 10 years. In 1930 the average turkey sold weighed 13.4 pounds but in 1940 the weight had increased to 15.1 pounds.

The per capita production of turkeys in the United States in 1940 of 3.74 pounds, was the largest on record. It was two percent above the 1939 per capita production, and exceeded the 10-year average by 55 percent and the five-year average by 36 percent.

## WARN VIOLATORS OF POTATO GRADING LAW

PROSECUTIONS were recently instituted by the Department of Agriculture under the compulsory potato grade labeling law which resulted in fines being imposed upon a number of dealers who were said to be persistent violators of the law. It was pointed out by the Department that the law has been on the statute books for a number of years and that agents of the Department have spent much time to acquaint growers, shippers and distributors of potatoes with the provisions of the law which assures the consumer of receiving the quality designated.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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JUN 14 1941

## PA. MAINTAINS PLACE AS LEADER IN U. S. IN DAIRY INDUSTRY

PENNSYLVANIA maintained its position in 1940 as a leader in the dairy industry, continuing to rank third in farm value of milk produced and seventh in volume of milk production among all the states according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture.

Dairymen of this State produced 4,778 million pounds of milk last year with an estimated farm value of $120,883,000 which was a gain of three percent in volume of milk produced and nine percent in farm value over 1939, according to the preliminary survey.

The number of milk cows on farms during the year is placed at 893,000 and the annual production per cow was 5,350 pounds an increase of 110 pounds over the year previous. The butter churned on farms last year was 10,500,000 pounds compared with 12,400,000 in 1939, having reached a lower figure than for any year since records were started in 1924.

Cash farm income from dairy products totalled $104,249,000 according to the preliminary reports, which exceeds that of each of the two previous years by approximately nine million dollars. Value of the dairy products consumed in the household on farms is given as $13,788,000.

The percentage of butterfat in milk produced on the farms in this State was 4.3 or a total production per cow of 203 pounds. Disposition of milk products consumed in the farm household is given as follows: Fed to calves, 110 million pounds; used in the household as milk or cream, 437 million pounds and as butter, 108 million pounds, making a total quantity consumed in the farm household of 655 million pounds. In farm churned butter which was sold, 124 million pounds of milk was used; 125 million pounds was sold as cream and 204 million pounds was sold as milk in wholesale deliveries to plants and dealers, and 670 million pounds was sold in retail sales of milk and cream by the farmers.

## HOG EFFICIENT IN FEED UTILIZATION

THE hog has yielded more to the average farmer and is more widely distributed throughout the United States than any other class of livestock, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

Widely recognized for its efficient utilization of feed, the hog is one of the most dependable sources of agricultural income. The pig will produce more meat from 100 pounds of feed than will any other farm animal. In the dairy districts it is the means of obtaining good value from skim milk, buttermilk, and whey.

Even a single brood sow, producing two litters of pigs, will furnish the average family with an adequate supply of pork, in addition to a few hogs for market.

However, the most serious menace to the swine industry is the dreaded disease hog cholera. It destroys more hogs in the United States than all other diseases combined, and the money losses reach many millions of dollars yearly.

Hog cholera is a highly contagious disease of swine caused by a virus. The disease is marked by high fever and prostration. Early in an outbreak in a herd several deaths occur, almost without warning. Cholera can be spread in many ways and extreme care must be exercised by hog raisers to prevent the introduction of the disease into their herds.

Among the "don'ts" advocated by the Bureau are:

Do not visit a neighbor's farm, if his hogs are sick.

Do not purchase hogs from community sales, unless they have been properly vaccinated.

Do not place newly purchased stock with your herd, place them in isolation until there is certainty that they are not diseased.

Do not permit dealers in livestock to tramp through the pens.

To rid premises of infection, remove the manure from infected pens and yards to some field which will be plowed under. Burn all litter and rubbish. After cleaning thoroughly, scrub the walls, floors, and troughs with lye and then disinfect the premises with a recognized disinfectant.

## PA. PRODUCE TO BE FROZEN FOR MARKET

PENNSYLVANIA vegetables will be used this season for the first time in the freezing process for market, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. A number of units for the freezing of peas, beans and corn will be in operation this season in this State. It is expected that this phase of the canning industry will show great development in Pennsylvania because of the high quality of Pennsylvania vegetables and the above average yields. Pennsylvania fruits such as cherries, raspberries and strawberries have been frozen for market for a number of years.

According to the census figures the value of quick frozen foods sold in the United States in 1939 was approximately 12 million dollars.

## BIG DECREASE SHOWN IN ALL SECTIONS IN MAPLE SUGAR, SIRUP

THE number of maple trees tapped this season in the 10 northern States producing maple products, was nearly a hundred thousand trees less than the number tapped in the 1940 season, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. The quantity of sirup made, was also materially less than the 1940 production. Only 554,000 pounds of maple sugar were made this season, compared with 629,000 pounds made in the previous year. The unusually low production of maple products this year was due largely to the very short campaign in most States. The season opened somewhat late and closed rather abruptly, as unseasonably hot weather occurred in most sections early in April. Weather conditions were not conducive to a good flow of sap and runs were generally short; however, the water was quite sweet and the sirup produced is reported to have been of unusually good quality.

In Pennsylvania 411,000 trees were tapped this year compared with 433,000 trees last year and the pervious 10-year average of 622,000 trees. This year 25,000 pounds of sugar were made compared with 36,000 pounds last year and the 10-year average of 88,000 pounds. The amount of sirup made was 82,000 pounds compared with 112,000 pounds last year and the 10-year average of 178,000 pounds. The average production per tree this year was 1.66 pounds in terms of sugar compared with 2.15 pounds last year and a 10-year average of 2.43 pounds.

## ASPARAGUS ACREAGE IN PA. IS UNCHANGED

THERE has been no expansion of asparagus acreage this year in Pennsylvania, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The total of 3,200 acres is the same as last year and compares with the previous 10-year average of 2,590.

Acreage replacements are being made at a normal rate so that there is no apparent change in the distribution of beds by age groups. The last survey showed 45 percent of the beds under five years; 30 percent under 10 years, and 25 percent over 10 years.

The indicated production this year in this State is 336,000 crates of 24 pounds each compared with 352,000 crates last year, or an average acre yield of 105 crates compared with 110 crates last year.

## CUSTOM CANNING IS BECOMING POPULAR

DURING the past few years custom canning of fruits and vegetables has developed considerably in localities where canning establishments are located. This practice differs from the vast commercial canning business carried on in this State in which the fruit and vegetable grower sells his produce to the cannery and the canner places the finished product on the market.

Under the custom canning method any person can take their products in quantities as small as one bushel and for a stipulated fee the products will be prepared and canned. A number of canneries in this State are now engaging in this line of the canning business which is showing a constant increase.

## INSTITUTE NEW PLAN FOR BEETLE CONTROL TO INOCULATE SOIL

A NEW method in the effort to control the Japanese beetle is being inaugurated in certain areas of the Southeastern section of the State under the direction of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced.

In all states infested with the Japanese beetle control work is carried on cooperatively by the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture. Under an arrangement made early this year the new control method known as the "Milky disease" treatment will be used in the most heavily infested areas in the Southeastern counties. The effort is necessarily limited, however, by reason of the limited amount of the material which is available.

This limitation can be appreciated when it is known that the material is made through the following process: Bacteria is injected into the intestines of each individual Japanese beetle grub after which the grub is put to sleep and each individual placed in a separate tray of dirt in which small roots have been placed upon which it can feed when it awakens. The grub becomes worthless if the intestine is punctured in the injection. It is kept there eleven days after which it is washed and then ground and mixed with talc. This substance is dried and is then placed in the soil in infested areas. This is done by the State Department of Agriculture to make certain that the amount of material available will be used to the best advantage in those areas where it will serve the greatest purpose. The material is made in the laboratory of the Federal Department of Agriculture and procured by the States.

The method will not replace any of the work which has been carried on by the Department in the control of the beetle since it became established in this State. All other efforts of control will be unabated including the quarantines.

## FIELD SEED PRICES ADVANCE IN MONTH

RETAIL prices of 10 important field seeds on April 15 averaged 2.3 percent higher than a month earlier, prices of six seeds were 2.3 percent lower, prices of eight others were unchanged, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture.

Advances over the March 15 prices were shown for red clover, alsike clover, white (Dutch) clover, sweetclover, Korean lespedeza, Common and Grimm alfalfa, redtop, bluegrass, and rape. But declines during the month ending April 15, occurred in ryegrass, orchard grass, Amber sorgo, Sudan grass, cowpeas, and potatoes. Prices remained unchanged for timothy, German millet, Canada field peas, soybeans, open-pollinated corn, wheat, oats, and barley.

Compared with mid-April a year ago, the April 15, 1941 U. S. Averages are lower for all crops except white (Dutch) clover, orchard grass, German millet, Sudan grass, rape, cowpeas, and corn. Prices of seeds in this group were higher than a year ago, especially in the case of rape, orchard grass, and white clover.

Prices in Pennsylvania are listed as follows: Per hundred pounds — Red clover, $16.75; alsike clover, $17.65; white clover, $83.90; sweet clover, $8.20; Korean lespedeza, $9.15; Alfalfa, Common, $23.60; Grimm, $23.60; timothy, $7.05; redtop, $15.70; Kentucky bluegrass, $25; common ryegrass, $7.25; orchard grass, $31.75; German millet, $5.55; Sudan grass, $5.75; rape, $18.70; Canada, field peas, $6.60; Per bushel—soy beans, $1.75; seed corn, open pollinated, $2.50; seed wheat, $1.80; seed oats, .80; seed barley, $1.25; seed potatoes, $1.35.

Prices for hybrid corn range from $5.05 for Wisconsin and $6.25 for Pennsylvania to $7.00 per bushel for Illinois.

### PRODUCE MORE EGGS

THE monthly number of eggs per layer on Pennsylvania farms in April was 17.5 compared with 16.8 eggs for that month last year, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The number of layers showed a decrease from 13,894,000 in April 1940 to 13,630,000 in that month this year.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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## ANNOUNCE DATES OF PENNSYLVANIA FAIRS

DATES upon which Pennsylvania Fairs will be held this year are contained in the list issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The list also contains the locations of the fairs and the names of the Secretaries.

| FAIR | LOCATION | DATE | SECRETARY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mercer Central | Mercer, Pa. | Aug. 5-8 | J. P. Orr |
| Cumberland Co. Dairy Cattle Show | Williams Grove, Pa. | Aug. 5-6 | H. K. McCullough |
| Cumberland Co. Draft Horse Show | Williams Grove, Pa. | Aug. 9 | H. K. McCullough |
| Clearfield Co. Fair | Clearfield, Pa. | Aug. 5-9 | Robert G. Leavy |
| Fawn Grove Fair | Fawn Grove, Pa. | Aug. 6-9 | L. M. Brown |
| Tioga Valley Fair | Tioga Junction, Pa. | Aug. 7-9 | Carl H. Forrest |
| Butler Fair & Exposition | Butler, Pa. | Aug. 12-15 | C. M. Miller |
| Kutztown Fair | Kutztown, Pa. | Aug. 18-23 | C. L. Bordner |
| Bedford Co. Fair | Bedford, Pa. | Aug. 19-23 | A. C. Brice |
| New Castle Agr. Fair | New Castle, Pa. | Aug. 19-20 | A. C. Shoaf |
| Somerset Co. Fair | Meyersdale, Pa. | Aug. 19-22 | Clarence F. Rowe |
| Bradford Co. Agr. Fair | Towanda, Pa. | Aug. 19-22 | V. L. Grenell |
| Dayton Agr. Fair | Dayton, Pa. | Aug. 19-23 | M. E. Garner |
| United Farmers | Abbottstown, Pa. | Aug. 19-23 | C. J. Meckley |
| Harrold Comm. Fair | Greensburg, Pa. | Aug. 21-23 | J. H. Silvis, Jr. |
| Huntingdon Co. Fair | Huntingdon, Pa. | Aug. 25-30 | Samuel E. McElwain |
| Indiana Co. Fair | Indiana, Pa. | Aug. 26-29 | B. H. Lichteberger |
| Wattsburg Fair | Wattsburg, Pa. | Aug. 26-29 | H. M. Burrows |
| Carbon Co. Agr. Fair | Lehighton, Pa. | Aug. 26-30 | Frank R. Diehl |
| Troy Agr. Fair | Troy, Pa. | Aug. 26-30 | H. D. Holcombe |
| West End Fair | Gilbert, Pa. | Aug. 27 | J. F. Shiffer |
| Susquehanna Co. Agr. Fair | Montrose, Pa. | Aug. 27-29 | Paul C. Harrison |
| The Great Stoneboro Fair | Stoneboro, Pa. | Aug. 27-Sept. 1 | Walter B. Parker |
| Allegheny Co. Fair | South Park, Pa. | Aug. 28-Sept. 1 | Lee Curran |
| Armstrong Co. Fair | Ford City, Pa. | Aug. 29-Sept. 1 | Walter H. Bowser |
| McKean Co. Fair | Smethport, Pa. | Sept. 1-4 | O. Albert Johnson |
| Cambria Co. Fair | Ebensburg, Pa. | Sept. 1-6 | H. Frank Dorr |
| Montgomery Co. Fair | Hatfield, Pa. | Sept. 1-6 | Alton F. Kinsey |
| Juniata Co. Fair | Port Royal, Pa. | Sept. 2-6 | J. H. Book |
| Wyoming Co. Fair | Hughsville, Pa. | Sept. 2-6 | Elton B. Edkin |
| Linesville Comm. Fair | Linesville, Pa. | Sept. 3-5 | O C. Lance |
| Ulysses Comm. Fair | Ulysses, Pa. | Sept. 3-5 | Samuel H. Myers, Vice President |
| Fulton Co. Fair | McConnellsburg, Pa. | Sept. 3-6 | H. W. Peck |
| Sullivan Co. Fair | Forksville, Pa. | Sept. 3-6 | J. R. Whiteley |
| West End Fair | Laurelton, Pa. | Sept. 3-6 | Nelson B. Shaw |
| Youngsville Comm. Fair | Youngsville, Pa. | Sept. 3-6 | R. L. Albright |
| Greene-Dresher Fair | Newfoundland, Pa. | Sept. 4-6 | Henry G. Botter |
| Reading Fair | Reading, Pa. | Sept. 7-14 | Charles W. Swoyer |
| Waynesburg Fair | Waynesburg, Pa. | Sept. 8-13 | Ambrose Bradley |
| Jenner Fair | Jennertown, Pa. | Sept. 9-12 | A. O. Lape |
| Perry Co. Fair | Newport, Pa. | Sept. 9-12 | A. K. Ludwig |
| Doylestown Fair | Doylestown, Pa. | Sept. 9-13 | J. Allen Gardy |
| Black Barren Springs Fair | Peach Bottom, Pa. | Sept. 10-12 | W. F. Tollinger |
| Harford Agril Fair | Harford, Pa. | Sept. 10-12 | J. A. Williams |
| Mansfield Fair | Mansfield, Pa. | Sept. 10-13 | Frank H. Marvin |
| Tuscarora Valley Fair | Millport, Pa. | Sept. 10-13 | Rachel Freeman |
| Waterford Comm. Show | Waterford, Pa. | Sept. 10-13 | Ray J. Salmon |
| Green Twp. Comm. Fair | Cookport, Pa. | Sept. 11-13 | Earl Haskins |
| Derry Comm. Fair | Derry, Pa. | Sept. 11-13 | J. A. Greubel |
| Millersburg Farmers Fair | Millersburg, Pa. | Sept. 11-13 | Neil B. March |
| Sugar Grove Comm. Fair | Sugar Grove, Pa. | Sept. 11-13 | T. R. Sponsler |
| West Alexander Fair | West Alexander, Pa. | Sept. 11-13 | Paul Rogers |
| Allentown Fair | Allentown, Pa. | Sept. 16-20 | M. H. Beary |
| The Wyoming Co. Fair | Tunkhannock, Pa. | Sept. 16-20 | B. O. Sheldon |
| Gratz Hort. Fair | Gratz, Pa. | Sept. 16-20 | Guy R. Klinger |
| West Lampeter Comm. Fair | Lampeter, Pa. | Sept. 17-19 | W. B. Rentschler |
| Mifflin Agr. Fair | Newville, Pa | Sept. 17-20 | E. Lee Oiler |
| South Mountain Fair | Arendtsville, Pa. | Sept. 17-20 | A. D. Sheely |
| Washington Co. Fair | Washington, Pa. | Sept. 17-20 | J. R. Henerson |
| The Edinboro Agri. Fair | Edinboro, Pa. | Sept. 18-20 | Norman P. Manners |
| Forest Co. Fair | Tionesta, Pa. | Sept. 18-20 | J. R. Allis |
| Lititz Comm. Fair | Lititz, Pa. | Sept. 18-20 | William N. Young |
| North East Comm. Fair | North East, Pa. | Sept. 18-20 | M. E. Hendrickson |
| Spartansburg Comm. Fair | Spartansburg, Pa. | Sept. 18-20 | J. A. Whitney |
| Bloomsburg Fair | Bloomsburg, Pa. | Sept. 22-27 | Harry B. Correll |
| Wayne Co. Fair | Honesdale, Pa. | Sept. 24-27 | R. W. Gammell |
| Manheim Farm Show | Manheim, Pa. | Sept. 25-27 | E. A. Auld |
| Manor Farm Show | Millersville, Pa. | Sept. 25-27 | Howard P. Siglin |
| York Inter-State Fair | York, Pa. | Sept. 30-Oct. 4 | John H. Rutter |
| Turbotville Comm. Fair | Turbotville, Pa. | Oct. 1-4 | Calvin Menges |
| Beaver Voc. School Fair | Beaver Springs, Pa. | Oct. 2-3 | B. Paul Ross |
| New Holland Farm Show | New Holland, Pa. | Oct. 2-4 | Isaac W. Cauller |
| Myerstown Comm. Fair | Myerstown, Pa. | Oct. 8-10 | James B. Woodford |
| Hollidaysburg Comm. Farm Show | Hollidaysburg, Pa. | Oct. 8-10 | Glenn Bressler |
| Port Allegany Comm. Fair | Port Allegany | Oct. 9-11 | C. C. Lynch |
| Montour-Delong Fair | Washingtonville, Pa. | Oct. 15-17 | Walter J. Lewis |
| Oxford Comm. Fair | Oxford, Pa. | Oct. 15-17 | Seth L. Burt |
| Mt. Joy Comm. Fair | Mt. Joy, Pa. | Oct. 16-18 | R. G. Hostetter |
| Northern Bedford Co. Fair | Yellow Creek, Pa. | Oct. 16-18 | Howard F. Fox |
| Antis Twp. School Comm. Show | Bellwood, Pa. | Oct. 16-18 | Wm. C. Singleton |
| Farmers & Fruit Growers Fair | Franklin, Pa. | Oct. 22-24 | Caleb D. Sutton |
| Heidelberg Comm. Fair | Schaefferstown, Pa. | Oct. 22-24 | George M. Myers |
| Lower Mahoney Comm. Fair | Dalmatia, Pa. | Oct. 23-25 | Neal B. Witmer |
| Morrison Cove Comm. Fair | Martinsburg, Pa. | Oct. 23-25 | Ella S. Ebersole |
| Unionville Comm. Fair | Unionville, Pa. | Oct. 23-25 | Roland M. Conard |
| Upper Perkiomen Valley Comm. Fair | East Greenville, Pa. | Nov. 5-7 | V. S. Ensminger |
| Pittsburgh Live Stock Show | Pittsburgh, Pa. | Dec. 8-10 | A. J. Roth |

## PA. CONTINUES RISE IN TOMATO GROWING

PENNSYLVANIA continues its spectacular rise to higher position among the states which grow tomatoes for canning. In 1930, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light, points out, only 4,280 acres were devoted in this State to growing tomatoes for manufacture and at that time Pennsylvania ranked 16th among the tomato growing states. During the 10 years to 1940 production increased nearly 500 percent, bringing the total acreage last year to about 20,000 and placing this State in eighth place.

Present indications are that about 25,000 acres will be planted to tomatoes this year which may give Pennsylvania a still higher rank among the states.

The extremely dry weather which prevailed throughout May in many localities preventing good plant growth, may have an effect upon the crop, it is reported. It is also believed likely that most of the early plantings and late plantings will mature about the same time.

## PRODUCTION 61.91% IN EGG LAYING TEST

AT the end of the 34th week of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest production was 61.91 percent with a total of 151,336 eggs produced by the 1,027 competing birds. The average number of eggs per bird was 147.36, the average egg weight was 24.4 ounces and the average points per bird was 150.44.

The 10 high pens in the order of their standing are as follows: J. A. Hanson, Burr's Poultry Farm, both SCWL; Crooks Farm, G. B. Treadwell, both RIR; David T. Cohen, BPR; C. T. Avery & Son, RIR; Guy A. Leader, Fuzzydele Farms, both SCWL; E. B. Parmenter, RIR, and Dryden Poultry Farm, BPR.

Applications for entries in the 1941-42 Contest are being received rapidly and it is being urged that if the present contestants wish to be assured of pen assignments that they make their applications at once.

## PA. OATS CROP VALUE EXCEEDS 12 MILLIONS SMALL AMOUNT SOLD

THE 1940 Pennsylvania oats crop was valued at $12,743,000 according to preliminary reports issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. Production totaled 31,080,000 bushels and the season average price per bushel received by farmers was 41 cents. Of the total production 27,972,000 bushels were used for seed and feed leaving 3,108,000 bushels which were sold, the value of that sold having been $1,274,000.

These figures compare with a total production of 26,274,000 bushels in 1939 of which 24,172,000 bushels were used for feed and seed and 2,102,000 bushels were sold. The season average price received by farmers was 42 cents per bushel making the total value of the crop $11,035,000, and the value of that which was sold was $883,000.

Production of barley last year in this State totaled 4,030,000 bushels, which at an average price received by farmers of 53 cents per bushel was valued at $2,136,000. A total of 3,546,000 bushels were used for feed and seed leaving only 484,000 bushels which was sold at a value of $257,000.

The 1939 production was 3,658,000 which had a total value of $1,866,000 or an average of 51 cents per bushel. Of the production, 3,256,000 bushels were used for feed and seed and 402,000 bushels were sold having a value of $205,000.

A total of 2,118,000 bushels of buckwheat was produced last year in this State which had a value of $1,144,000 or an average price per bushel received by the farmer of 54 cents. Of the total production 117,000 bushels were used for seed, 82,000 bushels of which was planted on the farms where it was grown. A total of 1,409,000 bushels were fed to livestock; 76,000 bushels ground at the mill for home use or exchanged for flour, and 551,000 bushels were sold.

The 1939 crop totaled 1,808,000 bushels, which had a value of $1,121,000 or an average price per bushel of 62 cents.

## MANY WEED SEEDS IN ANALYZED SAMPLES

DURING the Spring seed inspection by agents of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, samples of a hay and pasture mixture, collected from dealers in two different counties, were brought to the laboratory, and after the analysis was completed, they were found to contain more than eight percent weeds, among them; 433 seeds of dodder to 65 grams.

If a bit of mathematics were applied to a case where such seeds were sown at the average rate per acre, it would be found that there would be 22 seeds of dodder sown on each 10 square feet, or two seeds for each square foot. One seed will produce growth sufficient to cover a square foot and frequently a greater area. This would mean that only 50 percent of the dodder seed contained in the mixture would have to germinate in order to completely cover the ground.

Dodder is recognized as one of the most noxious weeds. When large enough to become noticeable, it will be recognized as a slender twining parasite, obtaining its nourishment from the plants upon which it grows. During the first season it is noticeable in the field in the form of scattered yellowish areas because the stems, which are double curling leaflike and leafless, are of a yellowish color. If allowed to produce seed and clover or alfalfa is grown the second year, so much dodder may appear that the entire field will turn yellowish, the color on the dodder predominating over that of the other crops. To control such an infestation would mean either plowing of the area before seeds are produced or burning over the entire field.

### HAY CROP SHORT

REPORTS to the Department of Agriculture indicate that the lack of rain during May has had an appreciable effect upon hay in most localities. Hay and pastures were reported to be generally short and in fair to poor conditions. During the latter part of the month many fields of alfalfa showed yellow and clover bloomed although only several inches high. In some localities hay prospects are as low as a quarter of the crop.



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## EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL IN ERADICATING ALL TRACES OF SCABIES

SCABIES in sheep, commonly known as sheep scab, is one of the oldest, most contagious, and most infectious diseases affecting sheep according to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. It is an extremely contagious skin disease, easily transmitted from one sheep to another, and spreads rapidly from flock to flock.

Sheep scab is caused by a very small parasite known as the scab mite. The irritation caused by the mite leads to itching, rubbing, and biting, and the wool becomes loose and falls out. The animals lose weight, become emaciated, and finally large numbers of the infested flocks die. If permitted to become widespread the disease would soon ruin the sheep industry.

In the winter of 1939 agents of the Bureau of Animal Industry discovered sheep scab infestation in a number of flocks and after a thorough investigation it was found that the disease was much more widespread than at first suspected.

The investigation revealed that it was introduced into Pennsylvania through the illegal transportation of infested sheep from other states to community sales in this State.

A plan was immediately inaugurated to combat the outbreak. Wherever infestation was discovered in a flock the sheep were quarantined on the premises and arrangements were made to dip them under official supervision. A representative of the Bureau inspected every flock adjacent to the one infested and when possible inspected every flock in the township.

When the source of infestation could be traced back to community or public sales, the community sales quarters were disinfected and quarantined and sheep were not permitted to be sold except for slaughter purposes.

As most of the farms were not equipped with a dipping vat, a portable vat was transported from one infected farm to another. The dipping material was furnished by the Department of Agriculture.

Meetings were held by state disease control organizations of the adjoining states and policies were formulated for the enforcement of all the necessary regulations to prevent further infestation.

Meetings were also held to obtain the cooperation of owners, local groups, and wool growers organizations in order to combat the disease.

In 1939, twenty-three infested flocks comprising 1,716 sheep were discovered. In 1940, there were 21 infested flocks comprising 2,263 sheep, but through these intensive efforts the disease has been eradicated in all infested flocks and Pennsylvania is free from scabies in sheep, no trace of the disease having been found so far this year.

## LIST PRICES PAID FOR FARM PRODUCTS

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased one point during the month ended May 15, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture.

Local market prices of farm products in the United States have continued upward and on May 15 the index of prices received by farmers for the country as a whole reached 112 percent of the 1910-14 level. At this figure prices averaged 2 points above a month earlier and 14 points above a year earlier. Grain prices, dairy products and chickens and eggs each averaged three points higher. Meat animal prices advanced one point. Fruit prices were steady from April to May. Mid-May prices of nearly all commodities except fruits and grains, were substantially higher than a year ago. Grain and fruit prices advanced only one point, but prices of truck crops were materially higher. Industrial activity increased somewhat in May following a temporary lapse in April, and in mid-May was at near record high levels. As a result, the domestic demand for farm products continued to improve. Prices in Pennsylvania were as follows: Bushel wheat, .95; corn, .78; oats, .44; barley, .62; rye, .67; buckwheat, .60; potatoes, .60; apples, .65; hay, ton, 9.90; hundredweight hogs, 8.40; beef cattle, 8.50; veal calves, 10.50; sheep, 4.20; lambs, 9.70.

Milk cows, 85.00; horses, 110.00; mules, 116.00; chickens, pound, .185; turkeys, .22; eggs, dozen, .219; wool, pound, .40.

## '40 HAY CROP VALUE NEARLY 32 MILLIONS

HAY production in Pennsylvania last year totaled 3,250,000 tons compared with a total of 2,668,000 tons in 1939 according to reports issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. Of the 1940 crop only 260,000 tons were sold. The value of which was $2,548,000 or an average price per ton received by the farmer of $9.80, which places the value of the total crop at $31,850,000. A total of 2,990,000 tons were fed the livestock. The season average price per ton received by farmers for the 1939 crop was $12.20 which made the value of the smaller production that year total $32,550,000.

Because of the dry weather during May production this year is expected to be considerably reduced. During the latter part of the month many fields of alfalfa showed yellow and clover bloomed although only several inches high. In some localities latest reports indicated hay prospects as low as a quarter of the crop.

## GIVE TREATMENT FOR CONTROL OF INSECTS

CERTAIN scale insects harmful to nursery, shade trees and ornamentals are now hatching and in this active and crawling stage are easy to control according to the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. There are available on the market certain oil emulsions commonly spoken of as summer oils, which are made from highly refined mineral oils. The important thing to observe in purchasing these oils is that they are intended for Summer use and are made from the proper oils which will not damage the foliage. The material should contain 85 percent of actual oil at the rate of two gallons of oil in 100 gallons of water to which one pint of nicotine sulphate containing 40 percent nicotine should be added. Plants known to be infested with the scale insects should be thoroughly sprayed.

Notorious among the scale insects which are now hatching and crawling is the juniper scale which in some localities in the state has caused a loss as high as 90 percent certain varieties of Junipers. Examination of all species of junipers, particularly Pfitzer Juniper, should be made for the soft-bodied crawling forms. They are quite small and it will take a sharp eye and a good light for them to be noticed. All plantings should be examined for the presence of scale insects whose young may be moving at this time.

Another home remedy which may be used where the Summer spray coils are not available is soap and nicotine. The amount of soap to add to the water will depend upon the hardness of the water. As a general rule it will take about three pounds to 50 gallons of water. There are on the market certain liquid soaps which are useful for spraying purposes. They are usually used at the rate of one and one-half gallons to 100 gallons of water. The nicotine should be used at the rate of one pint in 100 gallons. After the solution is prepared, more soap should be added if the water is not soft.

## FARMERS' COSTS ARE CONTINUING TO RISE

THE purchasing power of the Pennsylvania farmer rose three points on May 15 above the figure of a year previous, according to the Federal State report issued by the Department of Agriculture. The value of his dollar in terms of the cost of things he must buy and based upon the 1910-14 level of 100, is now 98 cents.

The prices the farmer must pay for the commodities he purchases have also gone up, showing an increase from 123 on May 15, 1940 to 125 on that date this year. This means that based upon the 1910-14 level when both his purchasing power and the prices he paid for commodities stood at 100, the dollar the farmer receives for things he sells is worth 98 cents whereas it requires $1.25 to purchase one dollar's worth of commodities which he requires. On a National basis the purchasing power of the farmer is placed at 90 and the prices the farmer must pay are listed at 125, the same as in this State.

## ADVISES FARMERS TO CUT COSTS TO MEET INCREASING PRICES

FACED with inevitable increases in costs as the result of the defense program which are already being felt so far as labor is concerned, the farmer may come into a serious situation unless he takes immediate steps to advance efficiency and to stop losses through leaks and improper management, Secretary John H. Light of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has declared. This must apply in all phases of farming if agriculture is to meet the demands which will unquestionably be made upon it to provide a steady supply of food, the Secretary insisted.

"It is evident," Mr. Light declared, "that there will be an increasingly wider range between the prices of the things the farmer must buy and the prices of the things he has to sell. Costs will rise faster than the prices of his commodities and the only way that situation can be met is by reducing the costs of operation and increasing management efficiency. In dairy farming there is nothing of greater importance than proper herd management, which includes efficient feeding practices and certainly the elimination from herds of the low producing cow.

Every cattle owner should establish a Bang disease free herd; follow the necessary rules of sanitation including frequent disinfection; add cattle only when necessary, then only healthy cattle free of Bang disease; apply proper rules to visitors to eliminate the chance of disease being carried to the animals and to eliminate the small losses which come through carelessness. The owner who maintains his herd in an indifferent manner, disregarding the presence of possibility of introducing diseases in his herd, will have difficulty in avoiding financial difficulties. The proper system of herd management properly executed furnishes the necessary barriers in most cases against disease and low producing herds.

"Bang disease can be eliminated from any herd through following the basic principles of the plan of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Reinfection of clean herds usually indicates that bars have been let down somewhere. Delay in obtaining a free herd often indicates lack of thoroughness in execution of those principles. Repeated blood tests and elimination of reactors may never result in the elimination of the disease unless supplemented by proper herd management in every respect."

## VEGETABLES, BERRIES HIT BY MAY DROUTH

REPORTS to the Department of Agriculture indicate that during the first week of June in scattered areas throughout the State several days of high temperatures coupled with heavy infestations of worms and insects as plants were beginning to appear above the ground caused considerable damage to sweet corn, cabbage and cucumber fields and some replanting will be necessary.

As the result of the dry weather in May growth of snap beans in the Bucks-Philadelphia area was affected and light marketings are expected during the latter part of this month. Early bunched beets began moving to market from the Southeastern section about 10 days earlier than last year. Much Spring spinach in that area is too small to harvest because of the lack of rain. The dry weather has also reduced the strawberry yield and many small berries are being harvested. The harvesting season will be short in all areas of the State.

## INTEREST SHOWN IN NEW WHEAT VARIETY

WITH the harvesting of wheat expected to begin the last week of this month, much interest is being shown in the productivity of the Thorne, a high yielding smooth variety recently introduced from Ohio. Wheat growers are watching closely what the result will be, it being thought that conditions have been generally favorable for the grain to show its adaptability to this State. All Spring grains are reported to be in fair condition.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## APPLICATIONS FOR SEED CERTIFICATION BREAK ALL RECORDS

APPLICATIONS have been received by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture for the inspection and certification for seed purposes of 4,362 acres of wheat, oats and barley for 1941 which is the highest acreage on record and compares with a total acreage of 3,888 acres entered in 1940. The acreage entered this year is divided as follows: Wheat 2,827 acres, oats 742 and barley 793, compared with 2,754 acres of wheat entered in 1940, oats 586 and barley 548.

The principal varieties entered for inspection are: Barley, Tennessee Winter, Kentucky No. 1, Beardless and Marbless; wheat, Leap's Prolific, Nitanny Penna. 44) Forward and Thorne; oats, Patterson and Cornellian.

During 1940 the Bureau rejected 1,372 acres of grain or a total of over 35 percent of the total acreage entered for certification. Rejections were made for disease, varietal mixture, noxious weeds, lack of purity, low weight per bushel and poor germination.

Inspections for seed certification are made after the grain has turned color or just prior to harvest. Grain growers generally have learned that the highest priced seed is often the cheapest in the end, as there are too many other hazards that confront a farmer in the production of a crop of grain without taking a chance on planting poor seed. While certification is not a guarantee against losses due to crop failure, the protection certification affords is good insurance against crop losses due to poor seed.

Growers whose grains pass the field inspection requirements are requested to send one half peck samples to the Bureau of Plant Industry, Harrisburg, for laboratory analysis, as soon as the grain is thrashed and cleaned. A list of growers of certified grains will be issued as soon as the laboratory analysis and germinations are completed. Persons wishing to receive a copy of this list may secure one by writing to the Department of Agriculture.

## $202,000 IS VALUE OF PA. CLOVER SEED

PRELIMINARY reports of the Department of Agriculture show that the production of red clover seed in Pennsylvania last year amounted to a total of 23,000 bushels compared with 30,000 bushels in 1939 and 36,000 bushels in 1938. Of last year's production 13,800 bushels were used for seed on farms where it was grown and 9,200 bushels were sold. The season average price per bushel received by the farmer was $8.80 making the value of the total production $202,000 and the value of that which was sold $81,000.

Timothy seed production totaled 6,900 bushels last year compared with 4,800 bushels in 1939 and 5,500 bushels in 1938. A total of 2,200 bushels of the 1940 production was used for seed on farms where it was grown and 4,700 bushels were sold. The season average price per bushel received by the farmer was $2.10 per bushel, bringing the value of the entire production to $14,000 and the value of that which was sold to $10,000.

## ADVISE FARMERS ON SELECTIVE SERVICE

AS a result of conferences between Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, who is chairman of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Advisory Council, and Dr. William Mather Lewis, chairman of the State Selective Service Board, representatives of that board have met with all the county Agricultural Advisory Committees throughout this State for the purpose of giving information about the military draft as it affects agriculture and the procedure to be followed in an attempt to procure deferments. The committees of several counties held joint meetings, which were arranged by Secretary Light and the schedule was arranged to complete the entire State within a period of about one week.

This plan was undertaken in connection with the effort of the State Agricultural Council to assist in every possible manner to alleviate the farm labor situation.

## HAY CROP CONDITION IS EXCEEDINGLY LOW

CONDITION of hay crops on June 1 were the lowest or second lowest of hay crops on that date in 15 years or more according to the Federal-State survey of 17 Eastern states, the State Department of Agriculture has announced. This condition was caused by the unusually dry period during May and the early June rains did not come soon enough to permit of much growth before the hay had to be harvested. Clover bloomed in many instances when it was less than a foot high and most of the first yield has been cut. In some sections of this State reports show that the hay had not grown sufficiently to warrant cutting. As the result of this condition it is stated that local shortages of roughage in the East are probable.

Reports on the condition of pastures on June 1 showed them to be from poor to the lowest on record for that date in an area that included Eastern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania and all states from the Ohio and Potomac River valleys Southward. Poor pastures may require considerable feeding of the surplus hay crop carried over from last year when the crop was good.

## BEETLE CAME TO PA. TWENTY YEARS AGO

IT was 20 years ago this year that the first Japanese beetle was found in Pennsylvania. It was four years previous to that time that it was first discovered in the United States. The insect, which made its first appearance in this State in Philadelphia, entered this country in soil about the roots of plants which had been imported from a foreign country, as has been the case with many of the most injurious pests which now prey upon plant life in this country.

The beetle soon infested the entire Philadelphia area and during the first eight or ten years after its first appearance it caused great damage, having multiplied to great numbers. On bright days swarms of beetles infested market places alighting on the hats and clothing of shoppers in sections throughout the area and were found in great numbers in gardens and orchards.

That condition prevailed until about 1928 when progress had been made in developing methods of combating the pest as well as the beetle itself having attracted its own natural enemies which are various species of birds and last year the beetle was scarcely to be found in that area. There is however, at the present time a zone in Eastern Pennsylvania and in the adjoining areas in New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, which encircles the original area in which conditions somewhat similar but less intense to those in the Philadelphia section prevail.

The area in this State most heavily infested comprises northern Bucks and southern Northampton counties, through Lancaster and eastern Berks, Lebanon, southern Dauphin and slightly beyond the Susquehanna River into York and Cumberland counties. The chief damage is caused to field and sweet corn, the beetle feeding on the corn silk causing interference with pollination and preventing a full setting of kernels on the cob. Injury is usually more serious on early plantings.

The beetle grubs also cause damage to lawns and other grass lands and the adult causes considerable injury to fruit crops, particularly early varieties of peaches and apples. The foliage of grape and cherry and various ornamentals are also attacked but in these cases practical control measures are available.

## POTATO SHIPMENTS INCREASE IN PENNA.

TOTAL carlot shipments of Pennsylvania potatoes for the season to June 1 showed a greater percentage of increase than the shipments from any of the principal potato growing states of this country, according to reports of John H. Light, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Total shipments for the season last year were 296 carlots, 294 carlots of which had been shipped up to June 1 of that year. Shipments to that date this year amounted to 425 carlots, or an increase of nearly 70 percent. Decreases were shown for some of the states.

## FARM CASH INCOME IN PENNA. CONTINUES TO SHOW INCREASE

CASH income to Pennsylvania farmers from farm marketings showed a considerable increase during the first three months of this year over the similar period in 1940 according to reports of the Federal-State Reporting Service issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The total for this year's period from all marketings was $67,508,000 compared with $62,626,000 for the first three months of 1940 and an increase of $7,351,000 over the income during the first three months of 1939.

Of the total this year $47,850,000 was received from livestock and livestock products compared with $44,276,000 for the same period last year, and $19,658,000 was received from crops compared with $18,350,000 during the first three-month period in 1940.

This condition did not prevail as a whole in the North Atlantic group of states in which Pennsylvania is located. For the first three months income in that group was practically unchanged from the year earlier, with a sharp decline in Maine and Connecticut and slight decreases in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York.

Increases in cash income to Pennsylvania farmers have been steadily maintained for more than a year, each month this year having shown advances over similar months in 1940 and the total for that year was more than nine million dollars above the 1939 income. The March income this year was $17,132,000 from livestock and livestock products compared with $16,471,000 from those sources a year previous, and $7,565,000 from crops compared with $6,688,000 in that month in 1940.

The surveys, however, show that the cost of the commodities purchased by the farmer are keeping pace in advancing with the increases in income which causes the maintenance of a considerable spread between the purchasing value of the farmers' dollar and the value of that dollar in terms of the things he sells.

## BIG WHEAT INCREASE EXPECTED IN U. S.

INDICATIONS on June 1 resulting from the Federal-State survey issued by the State Department of Agriculture, were that the wheat acreage to be harvested in the United States this year will represent an increase of 11.5 percent over last year and that total production, if weather difficulties during this month are no more than average, may be expected to be about 911 million bushels. In only six past years has production exceeded 900 million bushels. Most of the increase is expected to be in four States, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado, where drought has reduced yields in many recent years.

Oats production is expected to show a reduction of about 10 percent below the large crop harvested last year, and barley is expected to show an increase of three percent. An increase of about 10 percent is expected in the rye crop.

In the case of wheat not only is there an increase in acreage over 1940 but yields per acre are also expected to be above previous years. The anticipated yield this year is 17.3 bushels compared with 16.3 bushels last year and an average of 14.4 bushels over the 1930-39 period.

## DECREASE SHOWN IN STALLION LICENSES

THE records of the Stallion Enrollment Section, Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, show that 325 stallions and jacks have been licensed this year to June 1. In 1940, 438 licenses were issued.

The purpose of the law is to improve the breeding of horses and encourage the horse industry in the Commonwealth and the Bureau insists upon its strict enforcement.

Within the last few years there has been a renewed interest shown in the saddle horse, which has naturally caused an increased demand for this type of horses, and the user of the heavier horses have become more discriminating and the demand for this class of horses are of the highest type. The result has been a more systematic breeding for a definite purpose.



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## FOWL POX IS CAUSE OF HEAVY LOSSES IN POULTRY INDUSTRY

A SOURCE of severe financial loss to the poultry industry is fowl pox, which according to the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture is one of the most troublesome diseases of poultry. It is also known as chicken pox, canker and diphtheria and causes heavy loss by deaths, decreased egg production and depreciation of market values.

The disease is transmitted by contact directly from infected birds or through such agencies as crates and utensils. Mosquitoes are also capable of transmitting it and probably are an important factor in its spread from one flock to another.

Treatment of affected birds is of little value. During recent years a method of control has become available in vaccination. Two types of vaccine, pigeon pox virus and chicken pox virus, are recommended by various investigators. The reaction of the bird to pigeon pox virus is less severe than it is to chicken pox virus. The immunity produced, however, is of shorter duration and in the light of present knowledge, its use is to be recommended only in laying birds or as an emergency measure at the onset of a natural outbreak of the disease. The follicle method of vaccination using a highly potent, carefully produced and cared for virus from the chicken, is the preferred measure of prevention. The best age at which to vaccinate is between 30 to 90 days, and the birds should be in good physical condition. The birds should be examined for evidence of a "take" from 7 to 10 days after vaccination. Immunity develops in about a month and usually persists throughout the average life of the bird.

Poultry owners can procure licenses from the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, to vaccinate their own flocks with the understanding that they are familiar with the technique of vaccination and are qualified to administer it.

## 11% INCREASE SEEN IN TOMATO ACREAGE

IN a special report by the Federal-State crop service issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, it is stated that 22,000 acres are planted in Pennsylvania to tomatoes for processing which is an 11 percent increase over the acreage last year when 19,800 acres were used for this crop. The previous 10-year average in this State was 10,980 acres.

The acreage of tomatoes throughout the United States in prospect for this year for processing is estimated at 466,790 acres, which is also an 11 percent increase over the 1940 plantings and 18 percent in excess of the previous 10-year average of 396,440 acres. These totals include acreages from which tomatoes will be obtained for whole canned tomatoes, canned tomato juice and for other tomato products including catsup, pulp, puree and sauces.

Early in the season the Federal Department of Agriculture requested an increase of 50 percent in tomato production to fill requirements under the Lend-Lease Defense law.

## RAINS TOO LATE TO AID FIRST HAY CROP

THE latest surveys issued by the Department of Agriculture indicate that the rains which followed the drought during May were too late to enhance materially the first cuttings of hay and the early crops are light. The condition of all tame hay at the time of the clover harvest was shown to be only 58 percent as compared with 85 percent last year. The condition of clover and timothy at the same period was 59 percent compared with 85 percent in 1940 and the condition of alfalfa was 66 percent of normal compared with 90 percent last year. Pastures were 63 percent compared with 88 percent in 1940.

Reports show that in some cases farmers intend to pasture their hayfields as labor is scarce and yields are low.

## LATER PEA CROP IS GREATLY IMPROVED

CANNING of the early crop of Pennsylvania peas reached its height about the middle of June according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. Due to the lack of rain during April and May yield of the early varieties was estimated at 74 percent compared with 81 percent last year, but the more recent rains have helped the late varieties, which constitute the principal pea crop in this State and these yields are expected to be generally much higher and the quality excellent.

The principal pea growing areas are York, Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, Columbia, Somerset, Mifflin and Lycoming counties.

The pea acreage was increased substantially over previous years and was largely contracted for by canneries on the basis that deliveries would be made under the supervision of the grade inspection service of the Department of Agriculture.

## REPORT STOCKS HELD IN COLD STORAGE

APPLE holdings in cold storage in Pennsylvania on June 1 amounted to 111,000 bushels compared with 42,000 bushels on that date last year according to reports released by the State Department of Agriculture. Other commodities in cold storage in this State June 1 this year were: Butter, 3,734,000 pounds; American cheese, 1,843,000 pounds; eggs, 223,000 cases, frozen eggs, 4,997,000 pounds, and a total of 4,158,000 pounds of poultry.

Reports from cold storage warehouses and meat-packing plants throughout the United States indicated the following situation:

Stocks of apples were reduced from May 1 by the equivalent of nearly 3¾ million bushels.

Total stocks of frozen fruits and berries showed a net increase during the month of eight million pounds.

Frozen vegetable holdings were reduced 5⅓ million pounds.

Manufactured dairy products were increased materially, creamery butter by 38½ million, and all cheese by 11¼ million pounds.

Egg holdings were increased by better than 2½ million cases of shell and 42¼ million pounds of frozen or a total case equivalent increase of 3¾ million.

Stocks of all frozen poultry were reduced by 13¾ million pounds. All varieties with the exception of ducks and miscellaneous items indicated withdrawals from freezers.

Frozen and cured beef stocks were reduced by eight million pounds; pork by about one million; and miscellaneous meats by three million pounds.

Lard stocks were increased during May about 33 million pounds.

All items with the exception of frozen vegetables and shell eggs showed holdings in excess of those of a year earlier and the 5-year, 1936-40 average for June 1.

Heaviest stocks were of meats and lard. Beef and pork holdings were 226½ million pounds heavier than those of a year earlier and 296½ million above the five-year average. Lard was 70 million pounds in excess of a year earlier and 185½ million pounds above average.

## PA. BARLEY STOCKS GREATER THAN USUAL

STOCKS of barley on Pennsylvania farms on June 1 showed a large increase over those of 1940 being more than double the average amount for the previous five-year period, according to reports issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture.

On that date the stocks of barley totaled 484,000 bushels which was 12 percent of the previous year's crop, compared with 292,000 bushels on June 1, 1940 which was eight percent of the 1939 crop. The average stocks held over the 1935-39 period amounted to 233,000 bushels or 10.8 percent of the previous year's crop.

## INDICATED YIELDS OF STRAWBERRIES 23% BELOW CROP OF 1940

THE indicated production of strawberries for the late second group of states which comprises Pennsylvania, Iowa, Michigan, New York, Utah and Wisconsin, is 2,207,000 crates of 24 quarts each, according to the State Department of Agriculture. This is 23 percent below the 1940 crop but is 43 percent above the previous 10-year average. Frost and dry weather were largely responsible for the decline in condition as the season advanced.

Strawberries started moving from southeastern Pennsylvania during the last few days of May. Dry weather lowered yields with many small berries being harvested. From York county westward the harvest period will be short. In the northern and western counties except in a few scattered sections, frosts and dry weather hindered growth and a light crop is in prospect. Harvest started about June 15 in these counties and will probably be over by July 10. The acreage for the State in 1941 was estimated to be 5,000 acres, a two percent increase over 1940. The yield this year was indicated to average 65 crates per acre. This compares with 100 crates per acre harvested in 1940.

## SLIGHT INCREASE IN PA. LETTUCE ACREAGE

THE acreage of lettuce which will be available for the 1941 season in four of the late states, Colorado, New Mexico, New York and Pennsylvania, is estimated to be 8,840 acres according to the State Department of Agriculture. This is a decrease of seven percent from the 9,530 acres harvested in 1940 and is about 18 percent below average. Colorado growers have planned the same acreage as was harvested in 1940, but in New York, where much of the acreage is still to be sown, present indications are for a decrease of 16 percent below last year's acreage. Acreages in both States are below average. In New Mexico there is a reduction of 20 percent.

In Pennsylvania a three percent increase in acreage is indicated for 1941. Both Iceberg and Boston lettuce started moving to market during the last week of May from the Bucks-Philadelphia area and other southeastern counties. Quality is very good and peak volume was expected the latter part of June.

Preliminary surveys place the Pennsylvania acreage for this year at 340 compared with 330 acres last year and the previous 10-year average of 280 acres.

## EGG PRODUCTION IS 61.55% IN PA. TEST

PRODUCTION in the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test conducted by the Department of Agriculture was 61.55 percent according to the thirty-seventh weekly report. The total number of eggs produced was 163,722 and the average eggs per bird was 159.42, the average weight of which was 24.4 ounces per dozen.

The 10 high pens to date are listed as follows: J. A. Hanson, SCWL, 2748.60 points; Crooks Farm, RIR, 2694.95 points; Burr's Poultry Farm, SCWL, 2690.40 points; G. B. Treadwell, RIR, 2662.55 points; David T. Cohen, BPR, 2645.35 points; C. T. Avery & Son, RIR, 2558.65 points; Fuzzydele Farms, SCWL, 2554 points; Guy A. Leader, SCWL, 2538.25 points; Dryden Poultry Farm, BPR, 2480.95 points, and E. B. Parmenter, RIR, 2440.90 points.

Production for the week ranged from 66 eggs per pen to 72 eggs per pen for the 10 high pens of that week.

Announcement was made that reservations for the next test are still available to interested breeders and that they will be filled in the order in which the applications are received.

## HENS BREAK RECORD IN EGG PRODUCTION

EGG production per 100 hens for the country at large on June 1 was one percent higher than a year ago and established a new record for that date according to reports to the State Department of Agriculture.



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1941

## 150,000 AC. WHEAT ELIMINATED IN PA. BY U. S. QUOTA PLAN

ACCORDING to the figures of the agencies operating under the Federal Department of Agriculture a total of 150,000 acres of wheat were cut down or plowed under in this State as a result of the establishment by referendum on May 30 by the United States Department of Agriculture of a quota for wheat production. Had the quota not been established the wheat acreage to be harvested this year in Pennsylvania would have been 1,062,000 instead of the 912,000 acres to be harvested. With an average indicated yield of 19 bushels per acre the production will be 2,850,000 bushels less than it would have been without the quota system.

Twenty years ago when somewhat similar conditions existed in agriculture as a result of the post-war boom there were 1,317,133 acres planted to wheat in this State which yielded a total estimated production of 23,271,579 bushels compared with the total indicated production this year of 17,328,000 bushels.

## MORE FIELD SEEDS ARE LOWER IN PRICE

ALTHOUGH the general level of retail seed prices on May 13 was higher than a month earlier, prices of 16 out of 24 important kinds of field seeds were lower than during the corresponding period a year ago according to the latest report of the Department of Agriculture.

Compared with a month earlier, selling prices of legume, grass, forage, cereal white or Dutch clover, common alfalfa and potatoes which were lower, and Canada field peas and seed oats, which remained unchanged. Advances as a percent of the previous month were most marked in the cases of open pollinated corn, barley, soybean, cowpeas, German millet and Amber Sorgo.

Throughout the past selling season, retail prices of most seeds were lower than a year ago. This situation prevailed on May 13 and with the exception of white or Dutch clover, orchard grass, German millet, Sudan grass, rape, cowpeas, and open-pollinated seed corn, prices of which were higher, and Amber Sorgo which shows no change, all other seeds retailed at prices below a year ago.

In dollars per 100 pounds, prices in Pennsylvania were as follows:

Red Clover, 16.75; Alsike Clover, 17.80; White Clover, 83.55; Sweet Clover, 4.35; Korean Lespedeza, 8.60; Alfalfa, common, 23.70; Grimm, 25.85; Timothy, 4.10; Redtop, 15.45; Kentucky Bluegrass, 35.25; Common Ryegrass, 8.10; Orchard grass, 30.10; German Millet, 5.20; Amber sorgo, 5.60; Sudan Grass, 5.55; Rape, 10.40; Canada Field Peas, 6.25.

In dollars per bushel: Cowpeas, 1.90; soybeans, 1.80; Seed Corn, 2.85; Seed wheat, 2.15; Seed Oats, .80; Seed Barley, 1.40; Seed Potatoes, 1.20.

Prices per bushel for hybrid corn ranged from Iowa at $5.80 to $6.35 for Pennsylvania. Illinois—$6.65; Indiana—$6.45, Iowa—$5.80, Kansas—$6.25, Michigan — $5.45, Minnesota — $6.00, Missouri — $6.30, Nebraska — $6.05, Ohio—$5.55, Pennsylvania—$6.35, and Wisconsin—$4.90.

## LIVESTOCK DEALERS ARE GIVEN WARNING

A WARNING has been issued by the Department of Agriculture to all licensed livestock dealers to procure their licenses at once to avoid prosecution. Several prosecutions have already been made for failure to procure the 1941 license and in each case fines have been imposed in addition to the costs of prosecution.

A livestock dealer was also recently convicted of charges of fraudulently changing ear tags in cattle and selling them as Bang disease tested animals. He was fined $100 and costs.

### TOBACCO STOCKS UP

ACCORDING to the latest reports of the Department of Agriculture there are a total of 113,841,000 pounds of Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco in storage in the warehouses of the country. This compares with 112,788,000 pounds stored a year previous and 79,260,000 pounds held January 1 this year.

## AVERAGE PENNA. COW UP IN PRODUCTION

THE average cow in Pennsylvania covered by the Federal-State crop report issued by the State Department of Agriculture, produced 22.1 pounds of milk during May which was the highest production for the month in the 14 years of record excepting May 1940 when the average was 22.7 pounds. This is an increase of six percent above the previous 10-year average production.

Milk production on farms throughout the United States in May was about seven percent above production in May last year. There were about two percent more milk cows on farms, and production per cow was about three percent higher than during May 1940 which was a drop of about four percent from May 1 which was caused by the poor condition of pastures resulting from the drought. In the first five months of this year preliminary estimates indicate that production of milk has been two and one-third billion pounds greater than in the same period last year which is an increase of about five percent.

For the country at large there was an increase of eight percent in manufactured dairy products in April over March. However, apparent consumption in the United States of milk and milk products, the latter based on milk equivalent, showed an increase of six percent over last year.

On June 1 the condition of dairy pastures showed marked regional contrasts, pasture feed being extremely short in Eastern and Southeastern portions of the country where lack of moisture has resulted in near drought conditions. Additional rainfall since that time appears to have greatly improved pasture prospects in most important dairy sections.

## POINTS TO DANGERS OF POISONOUS WEEDS IN GRAZING LANDS

SECRETARY of Agriculture John H. Light has called to the attention of farmers the danger of poisonous plants in pastures which annually take a considerable toll in livestock during the grazing season. The most common plants which are deadly to cattle are water hemlock, poison parsnip, wild parsnip, cowbane, beaver poison, spotted parsley, musquash root and snakeweed. Partly dried wild cherry branches are also deadly poison to cattle.

The water hemlock is a tall, erect march plant from two to six feet high. The stems are fairly stout, streaked with purple, bearing a few pale green doubly compound leaves and many flat clusters of small, greenish white flowers, similar in appearance to the wild carrot or Queen Ann's lace. The root consists of a bunch of fleshy, tapering projections attached to the root stock. The plant is found in local patches in low wet, marshy land.

The best method of eradication is to grub out the roots which should be done before the seeds are matured. The roots should be placed beyond the reach of livestock and burned after they have become dry.

All poisonous plants are not readily identified by the average person and it is, therefore, urged that questionable plants be sent to the Department of Agriculture where they will be identified by the Bureau of Plant Industry and complete information will be submitted to the person sending the plants. As a further safeguard the Department has published General Bulletin No. 531, entitled "Poisonous Plants of Pennsylvania" which is available to any interested person and should prove valuable to the farmer who grazes livestock.

## NEW LIME REPORT IS PUBLISHED BY DEPT.

PUBLICATION of the Lime Report, General Bulletin No. 575, covering the period from 1936 to 1940 has been announced by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The report is available to any interested person who will make request to the Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg.

Contained in the report is the Pennsylvania lime law, a list of the brands registered, tonnage sales, the average analyses, prices and deficiencies and the names of manufacturers and their brands.

## LABOR SITUATION OF PRESENT SIMILAR TO THAT OF 20 YRS. AGO

WITH the farm labor situation being in the forefront among agricultural problems at the present time as the result largely of the great influx to industry which is engaged in military defense work, records of the Department of Agriculture show that just 20 years ago the farmer was faced with similar if not even more acute conditions. At that time the country was in the midst of the post-war boom and industry then, too, was absorbing all available labor at high wages.

According to the 1921 reports only 10 percent of the farmers of Pennsylvania were able to get the desired help and that compared with 37 percent a year earlier. The report also contains the following observations: "The experience that many men, now available for farm work, have had during the past four years in mills and factories have not well fitted them for farm work and there is some complaint that many of the farm hands are not efficient."

At that time there were approximately 202,000 farms in this State as compared with 169,000 according to the last census.

## SELECT POULTRY FOR BREEDING ON FARMS

APPLICATIONS covering more than 100,000 birds are now on file in the Bureau of Markets for the selection and classification of poultry for breeding purposes under the Poultry Standardization Plan of the Department of Agriculture. This is one third of the total number covered in the work during the entire year of 1940 which was a record year. The heaviest season is from August to December.

Representatives of the Department are now engaged in the work of selection throughout the State. They select birds to be used for breeding purposes at breeder hatcheries where eggs are secured for incubation from approved birds owned and managed by the breeder hatcherymen on their own premises; at hatcheries which secure eggs for incubation from their own or any other approved flocks; flocks which supply hatcheries with eggs from approved birds, and individual flocks which supply eggs for incubation from approved birds to hatcheries of their own choice.

The birds are selected according to two classifications, supervised meaning that approved female birds, selected for health, egg production, meat production and breed requirements, are mated to approved male birds free from all disqualifications and serious defects, and certified meaning that approved female birds, selected for health, egg production, meat production and free from all disqualifications including serious defects, are mated to individually pedigreed "Record of Performance" males.

All selected birds must be blood tested for pullorum disease.

## CHERRY CANNING TO MAKE NEW RECORDS

THE beginning of what promises to be a record-breaking cherry canning season in Pennsylvania began about July 1, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. Adams County will probably pack more cherries than in the peak year of 1927, when more than seven million pounds were processed, an early survey shows. Erie County, the other principal source of red sour cherries for canning and freezing, reports a lighter set on the trees than in the Southern Pennsylvania orchards, but with many new orchards coming into bearing the total yield is expected to be large. The quality of the crop is reported to be good except for hail injury in some sections. Practically all cherries sold for canning and freezing in this State will be purchased on the basis of the U. S. grades under state supervised inspection. Prices offered by the processors are higher than in any recent year.

Secretary Light stated that Pennsylvania is now among the leading producers of sour cherries in the nation.

### MAGGOT INFESTS CABBAGE

MANY growers are having difficulty controlling the cabbage maggot and a number of fields in widely scattered areas have spotty stands.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF MILK INCREASED OVER PAST 17 YEARS

RECORDS of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture show that the total annual production of milk on farms in this State has shown a steady increase since 1924 with the exception of the year 1932 when there was an interruption in the upward trend. In the former year, which was the first in which more specific records were kept, the total production was 4,213 million pounds compared with the all-time high of last year of 4,778 million pounds, showing an increase of 565 million pounds.

During the 17-year period annual average production per cow varied from the low of 4,920 pounds in 1924 to 5,250 in 1929 then back to 4,930 in 1933. Since that time, however, there has been a steady rise each year and last year went to 5,350 pounds, which is the highest for any of the years of record.

Farm cash income from dairy products has shown a considerable rise and fall over the 17-year period, the low point having been reached in 1932 when the total was $67,804,000, having declined from the all-time high of $115,667,000 attained in 1929, only three years previous. In 1924 the figure was $99,166,000 and each year showed a steady rise to reach the boom height and then within three years, the depth of the depression, to crumble 41 percent. After that year a steady advance set in and was continued until 1937 when the income reached $104,583,000 to fall back again the following year to $96,043,000. Advance was registered in 1938 which has continued the past two years, the 1940 preliminary total being $104,249,000.

## MORE EGGS IN PENNA. DECREASE IN U. S.

ALTHOUGH egg production for the country at large in May was less than that in the same month a year previous, an increase of six million eggs was recorded in Pennsylvania, according to reports of the State Department of Agriculture. The number of layers on farms was less than a year ago but the monthly number of eggs per layer went from 17.5 to 18.2 which accounted for the increase in production from 229 million eggs in May 1940 to 235 million eggs in that month this year. This was the highest rate of lay record in the 17 years during which records have been kept. The number of layers was 12,932,000 compared with 13,056,000 a year earlier.

Production for the Nation in May was one percent smaller than laying of May 1940 and two percent larger than the previous 10-year average. Number of layers were down from last year in all parts of the country, the decreases varying from one to seven percent. The June 9 preliminary report from commercial hatcheries indicated that 27 percent more chicks were hatched in May this year than in May last year and 11 percent more than the previous high May record made in 1939. The production of commercially hatched chicks for the first five months of this year shows an increase of 19 percent over the production of the same period last year. The number of chicks booked on June 1 for later delivery was almost twice as large as bookings a year ago which indicates a strong demand for late hatched chicks. Although many hatcheries operated at full capacity during May, others were limited only by the available supply of hatching eggs.

The increase over last year in the production of commercial broilers is probably a third. The total number of young chickens already sold and eaten, including commercial broilers as well as those farm and commercial egg producers' flocks on June 1, was probably between 12 and 15 percent greater than last year and indications point to furtherincreases through late hatchings. However, the indicated gain in layers does not appear likely to be as great as had been hoped, in view of the need for increased supplies of eggs to meet home and export demands.

### RYE STOCKS INCREASE

Rye stocks totaled 240,000 bushels on June 1 this year which was 23 percent of the crop of 1940 compared with stocks of 148,000 bushels in that year which was 8 percent of the 1939 crop. The average stocks over the 1935-39 period amounted to 252,000 bushels which was 20.8 percent of the previous year's crop.

## PEACH CROP IN PA. IS MUCH ADVANCED

REPORTS reaching the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture point to an excellent crop of peaches this season. Growers state that the harvest will be the earliest in many years, due to the early blossoming season last April when temperatures were abnormally high.

Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light has suggested that housewives who purchase peaches in quantity for home canning, be prepared to make their purchases early in August instead of about the latter part of that month which is usually the buying period. It is expected that marketing will be about completed Labor Day which is normally the peak of the season.

Because of their superior flavor and tree-ripened quality Pennsylvania peaches are greatly favored as fresh fruit and for canning purposes.

## GRADUAL REDUCTION SHOWN IN NUMBER OF T B CATTLE IN PENNA.

RESULTS of the tuberculin testing of cattle in Pennsylvania over the past three years show that there is a gradual reduction in the number of cattle reacting to the test, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. In the 18 counties which were tested last year there was an average of .18 percent reduction below the number of reactors in those counties in the 1937 test. The same counties are tested every three years. Two of those counties, Cameron and Forest had no reactors in each of the 1937 and 1940 tests.

In Blair, Crawford, Lehigh and McKean counties a slight increase in the percentage of reactors was found in the last test which it is believed might have been caused by the increased number of cattle and by the continuous interchange of cattle in those areas. The increase, however, was so small as not to cause any concern but it is looked upon as showing the necessity of continuing the retesting if the disease is to be kept under control.

In the tests conducted this year in Bucks and Montgomery counties the percentage of reactors was the same as in the test three years previous which is said to be a remarkable record in view of the great turnover of cattle in those counties.

## PEA CROP IS BELOW THAT OF LAST YEAR

INDICATED production of green peas in Pennsylvania this year for processing is 6,000 tons of shelled peas, according to the Department of Agriculture. This compared with 8,580 tons last year and an average of 3,570 tons during the previous 10-year period.

A total of 8,000 acres were planted to peas this year compared with 7,000 acres harvested last year and an average of 3,860 acres over the 1930-39 period. The yield per acre this year which is indicated to be 1,500 pounds of shelled peas is far below last year's yield as the result of late Spring frosts and exceedingly dry weather during the growing period. The yield last year was 2,450 pounds per acre and the previous 10-year average was 1,750 pounds.

A total of 315,960 tons of green peas is in prospect for canning, freezing or other processing this year throughout the country. This compares with the 1940 estimated production of 307,120 tons and the previous 10-year average of 203,560 tons. The 1941 indicated yield for the country at large of 1,652 pounds per acre compares with 1,854 pounds obtained last year and the previous 10-year average of 1,500 pounds per acre.

## MILK PRODUCTION REACHES HIGH MARK

ON June 1 milk production per cow throughout the country was reported to the Department of Agriculture to be three percent higher than on the comparable date last year, and also higher than on June 1 in any of the previous 15 years of record. Total milk production was about five percent greater than at the same time last year.

## MORE GRAINS RAISED 25 YEARS AGO IN PA. CROP VALUE HIGHER

RECORDS of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture show interesting conditions existing in farming in this State 25 years ago when agriculture was enjoying a heyday as compared with its multifarious problems of today, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light has pointed out. In that period there were approximately 219,000 farms in Pennsylvania compared with about 169,000 at present, acreages devoted to the various grains were greater, yields were as high and in some instances higher and yet prices received by the farmer were above those of today. Livestock, poultry and milk prices, however were lower and the same was true of wages, but more people were employed because farms had not reached the present high state of mechanization.

In 1915 the estimated wheat harvest was 24,928,000 bushels from 1,312,000 acres which had a total value of $26,174,400 compared with the 1940 production of 18,789,000 bushels from about 900,000 acres which had a value of $15,219,000. The total estimated production of corn was 54,792,000 bushels which had a value of $41,641,920 compared with a production of 53,640,000 bushels valued at $38,621,000 last year. Hay shows little change, the production 25 years ago having been 3,558,000 tons compared with 3,238,000 tons, but the value of the crop a quarter century ago was placed at $56,752,200 compared with $31,850,000 last year.

The average price received by the farmer for his milk was $1.76 per hundred pounds, 33 cents for a pound of butter, live chickens 12 cents a pound, 80 cents a bushel for potatoes and 38 cents per dozen for eggs. Milk retailed at an average of seven cents a quart.

The average farm wage with board by the year was $235 or $1.20 a day with board and $1.60 a day without board. The last general report showed the average wage rate per month with board was $29.50 and the daily wage $1.80 with board and $2.35 without board, but considerable advances will be shown from those figures when the present survey is completed as a result of the defense industry wage appeal to farm labor.

## INCREASED ACREAGE USED FOR SNAP BEANS

PRELIMINARY reports of the State Department of Agriculture indicate that 3,100 acres are planted this year to snap beans in Pennsylvania for processing which is 107 percent of the 1940 acreage when 2,900 acres were planted. These figures compare with 2,440 acres as the average for the previous 10-year period. Of the total acreage this year, 2,140 acres are planted to green beans and 960 acres are planted to wax beans.

Indications are that the plantings throughout the country will total 73,590 acres, which is 11 percent more than the 66,290 acres estimated for 1940 and exceeds the previous 10-year average of 57,110 acres by nearly 29 percent.

Of the total plantings for processing this year, it is estimated that 83.5 percent consists of snap beans of green varieties and 16.5 percent of wax beans.

## INCREASE EXPECTED IN MARKET TOMATOES

A TOTAL of 2,400 acres are planted in this State to tomatoes to supply the fresh market, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. This compares with 2,150 acres last year and a previous 10-year average of 1,460 acres.

Reports from Southeastern Pennsylvania counties indicate increased acreage, but some growers in that area have stated that an expected shortage of labor at picking time has caused some reduction of acreage in certain localities. Increased acreage in the Luzerne, Schuylkill and Lackawanna county area is generally about 10 percent. Reports show that there will be less acreage grown for "green wraps" in Erie County this year.

For Pennsylvania present indications show that 22,000 acres of tomatoes are expected to be harvested for canning and processing, which is an increase of 11 percent over the acreage harvested last year and 100 percent greater than the average acreage for the previous 10-year period.



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## CROPS PROVIDE LESS CASH INCOME IN APRIL THAN YEAR PREVIOUS

PENNSYLVANIA farmers received $532,000 less cash income in April this year from crops than they received in that month last year, but this loss was offset by the increase of $3,207,000 income derived from livestock and livestock products over a year previous, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The total income from crops amounted to $4,591,000 in April this year compared with $5,128,000 in that month last year. Livestock and livestock products provided an income of $19,550,000 in April compared with $16,343,000 in that month in 1940.

Cash income from crops as well as from livestock and livestock products, however, showed an increase for the January to April period this year compared with the similar period a year earlier. Crops provided a total of $24,249,000 this year compared with $23,473,000 during the period in 1940 and livestock and livestock products accounted for an income of $67,400,000 compared with $60,619,000 during that period last year.

Total cash income from farm marketings in April showed a substantial increase in April this year amounting to $24,141,000 compared with $21,466,000 that month last year. For the January to April period the income this year was $91,649,000 compared with $84,092,000 for that period in 1940.

Cash income from all farm marketings is expected to continue to show substantial increases during the next few months over the corresponding months of 1940, according to reports to Secretary Light. The increase from livestock and livestock products over the corresponding months of a year earlier may not be quite as large as it was in May when unusually heavy marketings were accompanied by advances in prices, but income is expected to be considerably higher than in 1940. Because of smaller marketings, income from crops during the first five months of 1940 was less than a year earlier, but present crop prospects indicate a sharp increase in marketings in the next few months, and with improved consumer demand income from crops should increase much more than seasonally to a level substantially higher than a year earlier.

## CHECKING NURSERIES FOR CERTIFICATION

INSPECTORS of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture are now engaged in checking growing stock in the various nurseries throughout this State for disease and pest infestation. Certificates will be issued by the department to those nurseries which are free of disease and pests which assures protection both for the grower and the buyer of nursery stock. The certificate will be for the year beginning next October 1 and ending September 30, 1942.

During the current inspection year 1,155 nurseries have been inspected and certified, which is a gain of 55 over the previous year. In addition to the nurseries, 401 dealers in nursery stock have been certified and 384 non-resident nurseries have been granted certification to sell stock in this State.

## DECREASE EXPECTED IN PA. FRUIT CROP

PRELIMINARY surveys indicate that the Pennsylvania peach, pear and grape crops will be below the production of 1940 but that cherries will show an increase, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The greatest reduction below that of last year will be in grapes, production having been cut severely due to the heavy freezing of the vines early in the season in the Erie County section. An increase is indicated in the cherry crop, production being estimated at 12,400 tons compared with 11,520 tons last year.

The peach crop is estimated at 2,340,000 bushels compared with 2,500,000 bushels in 1940, the pear crop is expected to yield 713,000 bushels compared with 773,000 bushels last year and the grape crop is expected to drop to a yield of 8,700 tons compared with 23,000 tons in 1940.

## OUTLOOK GOOD FOR LARGE TOMATO CROP

REPORTS reaching the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture from many parts of the state indicate that the present prospects are favorable for a large crop of tomatoes for canning. It is also indicated that the crop will be of good quality.

Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light, in commenting on the present outlook for canning tomatoes stated that with the largest acreage ever planted in this State, with continued favorable crop conditions and contract prices the highest ever paid by canners, Pennsylvania growers can expect a large cash income from their crop this year. In the last few years, Pennsylvania has forged ahead in tomato growing and it is now one of the principal producing states of the nation.

Growers are reporting increased costs of production this year as a result of higher costs of farm machinery, supplies, fertilizer, tomato plants and farm labor. Most canneries in the state have raised prices to growers to offset these increased costs.

## FARMER GETS SLIGHT ADVANTAGE IN JUNE IN BUYING POWER

PRICES received in June by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased two points from those of the previous month, according to the Federal-State survey released by the State Department of Agriculture. Of the 25 items listed 16 showed an increase while price declines were noted in three and six items remained unchanged.

Comparing the prices with those of June 1940 increases are shown in 18 items while seven items decreased in price. The greatest advance was in hogs which sold last month for $9.20 a hundredweight compared with $5.50 a year previously. Beef cattle advanced from $7.70 per hundredweight in June last year to $8.60 last month. The advance in veal calves was from $9.50 to $10.60 and sheep from $3.60 to $4.15 per hundredweight. The average price of milk cows was $78 last year and $86 last month, but the average price of horses declined from $123 to $110 and the price of mules dropped from $128 to $119. Hay per ton also declined from $13.40 to $10.30.

Other prices with comparisons were as follows:

| | June 1940 | June 1941 |
|---|---|---|
| Wheat | $ .90 | $ .96 |
| Corn | .73 | .81 |
| Oats | .47 | .45 |
| Barley | .59 | .61 |
| Rye | .69 | .65 |
| Buckwheat | .67 | .60 |
| Potatoes | 1.00 | .65 |
| Apples | .95 | 1.10 |
| Lambs | 9.10 | 9.80 |
| Chickens | .164 | .190 |
| Turkeys | .21 | .220 |
| Butter | .27 | .34 |
| Eggs | .174 | .250 |
| Wool | .30 | .42 |

Figuring the 1910-14 period price levels at 100 the purchasing power of Pennsylvania farmers advanced from 93 in June 1940 to 98 last month which was also the level in May. On the same basis, however, the prices farmers pay for the products they require also advanced from 123 to 126 in the year, one point of which was recorded from May to June this year.

## ONION ACREAGE SAME AS 1940 IN PENNA.

NO change is indicated in reports of the Department of Agriculture in the onion acreage in this State from that of last year when 360 acres were planted.

Growing conditions are reported generally satisfactory in the late onion producing States. First cars will probably come from the Eastern and Central groups of States about July 10-15, and from the Western group around August 1. The preliminary acreage estimate for late onions shows a decrease of 10 percent below the 1940 acreage and is eight percent smaller than the previous 10-year average. The eastern group of late onion States comprising Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, shows 15,310 acres this year compared with 17,560 acres last year. The Central group of states has 17,840 acres in late onions this year compared with 21,180 acres in 1940.

## PA. GRAIN CROPS TO BE LESS THAN 1940 SURVEYS INDICATE

PRODUCTION below that of 1940 is indicated for all grain crops in Pennsylvania this year according to the latest survey of the Federal-State crop service, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. In most instances the reduction is accounted for partly by a reduction in acreage. Due to weather conditions yields per acre are expected also to be generally less than last year.

The indicated production of corn is 53,341,000 bushels compared with 53,640,000 bushels in 1940; wheat production is placed at 17,686,000 bushels compared with 18,594,000 last year; the oats crop is indicated to be 30,351,000 bushels compared with 31,080,000 last year; barley 3,748,000 bushels compared with 4,030,000 bushels; rye, 966,000 bushels compared with 1,044,000 bushels.

Although the acreage in hay this year is 2,422,000 compared with 2,400,000 acres last year the yield this year is greatly reduced, the latest indications showing a production of 2,664,000 tons compared with 3,328,000 tons last year. Potatoes also show a lower production, the acreage having been reduced from 189,000 last year to 178,000 this year. Production is placed at 22,784,000 bushels compared with the 1940 production of 24,570,000 bushels.

Tobacco shows an increase in both acreage and production. This year 36,000 acres have been planted compared with 33,700 last year and production is indicated to be 52,245,000 pounds compared with 49,590,000 pounds last year.

Stocks of wheat and oats on Pennsylvania farms July 1 were greater than those on the comparable date in 1940, but there was a decrease in the amount of corn. Stocks of corn amounted to 7,760,000 bushels compared with 8,503,000 bushels; oats 4,973,000 bushels compared with 3,678,000 bushels and the old crop of wheat 1,597,000 bushels compared with 1,554,000 bushels last year.

## CHICORY SAID TO BE TROUBLESOME WEED

AMONG the many troublesome weeds toward which efforts of eradication should be directed is the chicory, commonly known as succory, blue saylor, blue daisy or wild endive, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. The plant is a native of Europe where it is used as a salad and as an adulterant for coffee, but since becoming naturalized has been classified as a noxious weed in this country.

The stem is stiff and tough and attains heights of from one to three feet. The leaves are long, dark green and toothed. The flowers are a violet-blue and rather attractive. The weed blooms in dry places from July until October.

Since the chief method of spreading is by means of its seeds, it is advised that deep cutting below the soil or pulling the plant when the ground is wet will be an efficient method of eradication. When too abundant for either of these methods "rotation of Crops" will be the proper procedure.

It is pointed out that in instances where land owners fail to destroy chicory or Canada thistle and permit them to go to seed, the law provides that any person may report the situation to a constable or supervisor of the township or district who will notify the owner to destroy those weeds.

## SOYBEAN PRODUCTION TOTALED 255,000 BU.

PENNSYLVANIA farms produced $255,000 worth of soybeans last year according to the preliminary reports of the Department of Agriculture. The season average price per bushel received by farmers having been $1.00, the total production was 255,000 bushels, 150,000 bushels of which were sold on the market and the balance used on the farms, 34,000 bushels having been used for seed on the farm where the beans were grown and 71,000 bushels having been fed to livestock.

Production in 1939 amounted to 186,000 bushels and in 1938 the total was 105,000 bushels.



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## POTATO PRODUCTION TO SHOW REDUCTION THIS YEAR IN PENNA.

LATEST indications as shown by the Federal-State crop Reporting Service re that the Pennsylvania potato crop is year will be reduced by about 768,000 bushels compared with the 940 production according to Secretary ohn H. Light of the State Department f Agriculture. The crop last year totaled 4,570,000 bushels. The indicated crop r this year is 22,784,000 bushels. Yields r acre are expected to be 128 bushels mpared with 130 bushels last year and e previous 10-year average of 120 ushels. Acreage planted to potatoes is 78,000 acres compared with 189,000 res last year.

Prospective potato production in the nited States as indicated by conditions n July 1, is eight percent smaller than e crop of 1940 and is one percent less an the 10-year average production.

A large decrease in acreage took place the 30 late States where the acreage for rvest in 1941 is eight percent smaller an that harvested in 1940. Low prices tained for the large crop of 1940 in ese states appear to be largely respons- le for the decrease in acreage this year. e most pronounced percentage de- eases in production, as compared with e 1940 crop, are indicated in the 7 termediate States with a nineteen per- nt decrease, and in the 18 surplus late ates, with an eight percent decrease. e 12 other late States show a decrease only four percent. In the eighteen rplus late States, which produce about o-thirds of the Nation's potato crop, ospective production is below the 10- ar average in the Eastern and Central oups of States, but is above average in e group of 10 Western States.

## ADVISE EFFORTS TO PREVENT MASTITIS

A LARGE number of cases of mastitis, a disease which causes much loss to e dairy farmer, could be prevented in rds by proper care being taken by the irymen at milking time, it is claimed by e Bureau of Animal Industry of the partment of Agriculture. At each lking the udder of the cow should be perly cleansed and the first milk ould be examined for any evidence of normal milk. If there is any evidence the milk being affected the cow should taken from the herd and proper treat- nt provided at once.

Mastitis may become evident first as a erish swollen udder or by the appear- ce of clumpy, stringy, or flaky milk. If cow showing the first symptoms of stitis is left with the rest of the herd d no precautions are taken to prevent spread of the infection, all the cows y become infected by the hands of the ker. The disease can also be spread milking machines and flies and also by ves which are permitted to be at large ong the cows.

The infection is the cause of much loss the dairy farmer, it being a cause for h bacteria count in milk which may se rejection of the milk by the dealer a loss of the premium which would e been paid for low count bacteria lk. It also causes greatly reduced duction.

Many cases of mastitis can be cured in early stages of the disease but by a eful check of each cow's udder every y and the prompt segregation or elim- tion of any animal showing even ht indications of the disease, it is ed that the dairyman will be able to ntain a clean and healthy herd and ease the net returns on the farm.

## NO SEASONAL DROP IN MILK IN PENNA.

MILK production in the United States continues high compared with rage but in recent weeks the increase r a year ago has been only that due to increase in cows, according to reports the Department of Agriculture.

Milk production per cow, despite more n the usual decline between June 1 d July 1, continued unusually heavy on the latter date was about the same at that time last year. In Pennsyl- ia the per cow production was re- ted to be 21 pounds on July 1 com- ed with 21.3 pounds a year previously 19.4 pounds as the previous 10-year rage.

## LARGE TOBACCO CROP INDICATED FOR '41

PRODUCTION of Pennsylvania seed-leaf tobacco this year is indicated to total 51,765,000 pounds compared with the crop of 49,098,000 pounds last year, according to the latest Federal-State survey issued by the State Department of Agriculture. According to that report the indicated yield per acre will be slightly under that of 1940 when the yield was 1,470 pounds compared with an expected yield this year of 1,450 pounds. The acreage planted to tobacco shows an increase from 33,400 acres last year to 35,700 acres this year.

It is also reported that this was one of the best years known to start the crop which is about two weeks ahead of last year on the average. Little replanting was necessary, except in a few localities which were hit by hail. Many growers say the outlook was never better, moisture is generally ample as the result of refreshing showers and insects are light.

## BIG INCREASE SHOWN IN PAYMENTS, FINES FOR LAW VIOLATIONS

STRINGENT enforcement of the dog laws is shown in the report released by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture in which great increases are noted in the total of fines paid by dog owners prosecuted for violations of the law and in the amount paid by dog owners for damages done by their animals to livestock and poultry.

During the period from January 1 to July 1 the report shows that a total of $2,151 was paid direct to livestock and poultry owners by dog owners for damages done by their dogs. This amount compares with a total of $1,236 paid during the similar period last year. During the same period this year dog owners prosecuted for law violations paid a total of $3,321 compared with a total of $1,507 during the first six months of 1940.

The report also shows, however, an increase in the amount of damage done by dogs, the State having paid during the first six months a total of $7,934 for damages to livestock and poultry compared with $7,254 during the similar period last year. The greatest damage was done to sheep, a total of 1,038 having been killed and injured for which the State paid the owners $4,829. This compares with 932 sheep for which $3,874 was paid during the first six months of last year. The amount paid for poultry damages ranked second, the total being $1,834 compared with $1,726 in the comparable period last year. Claims paid for damages to other livestock, including cattle, swine, horses, rabbits, and domestic game birds totaled $351 compared with $793 during the similar period last year. Total fees paid by the State for burial of livestock and poultry killed by dogs amounted to $821 compared with $891 during the first half of 1940.

## CABBAGE ACREAGE IS REDUCED IN THIS STATE

ACREAGE planted to cabbage this year in Pennsylvania shows a reduction of 600 acres, according to the reports to the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced. The acreage this year is 5,900 compared with 6,400 acres last year and the previous 10-year average of 4,900 acres.

The acreage of domestic type cabbage in the late States which comprise Pennsylvania, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin and Washington, for harvest this Summer and Fall is reported to be 50,670 acres. This compares with 50,850 acres for harvest last year and the previous 10-year average of 45,830 acres. Heavy marketing of this type cabbage from those states will begin next month and supplies will be available until Fall.

## CONTEST HENS SHOW 60.61% PRODUCTION

EGG production in the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test as reported on the 41st week was 60.61 percent and the total production was 179,234 eggs. The average per bird up to that time was 174.52 and the average egg weight was 24.5 ounces per dozen. A total of 1,027 birds are in the test.

## FARM WAGE REACHES 11-YEAR HIGH POINT SUPPLY IS REDUCED

ACCORDING to information received by the State Department of Agriculture, the general level of farm wage rates throughout the United States rose to the highest level in eleven years on July 1. At one-hundred-sixty percent of the 1910-14 average, farmers were paying about sixteen percent more per day for hired hands than on April 1 and twenty-four percent more than at harvest time last year. This continued the marked upward trend in farm wage rates which has been under way thus far this year with a second quarter upturn more than four times the usual seasonal rise. Wage rates on the farm advanced sharply from April 1 to July 1 in practically every State.

The sharp increase in wage rates this year reflects primarily the heavy drain on the supply of workers available in rural areas. For many years, there has been a reservoir of workers on the nation's farms and in rural non-farm places which has overflowed into urban areas in search of a livelihood. This search was not fruitful in many instances and, during the early thirties, crop correspondents reported the supply of labor available for farm work to be far above normal. Since 1932, the number of people willing to work on farms at prevailing wage rates declined considerably as non-farm employment opportunities again increased.

Crop correspondents now report the supply of available farm workers to be only sixty-seven on April 1 this year, and eighty-eight on July 1, 1940. This was the smallest supply reported during the nineteen years covered by the July record and lower than previously reported for any month since 1918 when this series was first inaugurated.

Farmers advanced a variety of reasons for the sharp cut in the labor supply. Pre-eminent among these was the rapid increase in defense activity in non-agricultural lines, the wide differential between industrial wage rates and rates the agricultural price level will permit farmers to pay, and the drafting of able-bodied males for the armed forces.

## EGG PRODUCTION IS CONTINUING ADVANCE

AN increase of eight million eggs produced by farm flocks in Pennsylvania was reported in June over the production of that month last year, according to the Federal-State survey issued by the State Department of Agriculture. Production this year amounted to 199 million eggs. As was the case on July 1 throughout the country farm flocks showed slightly more layers on hand than a year earlier, which was the first positive evidence of the expected gain in numbers of layers for next season. The number of layers on farms in this State is placed at 12,442,000 compared with 12,149,000 on July 1, 1940.

Egg production throughout the United States in June was more than four billion eggs or 11,114,000 cases, the largest output for that month since 1930. The average monthly number of eggs per layer in this State was sixteen and for the nation the average was fifteen eggs.

July 1 farm holdings confirm the expectation of a substantial gain this year in numbers of young chickens being raised, being the largest for that date since 1936. Hatchery production report shows a June production of 130,183,000 salable chicks, which is sixty-nine percent greater than last year. Orders on hand on July 1 for later shipments are seventy-two percent greater than last year. Commercial hatchings of turkey poults in June were forty-four percent above last year's level for June and orders still held for later delivery were about three times as great as last year.

On June 15 farm price of eggs was the highest for that month since 1929 and sixty-one percent higher than on that date last year. Chicken prices were twenty-three percent above last year and turkey prices nineteen percent higher. The cost of feed for poultry rose slightly but still remains at moderate levels.

### BREAD CONSUMPTION

Records show that the average family in the United States eats about 300 loaves of bread a year.



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# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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**John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture**

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## DECLINE IS HALTED IN PIG PRODUCTION MAY SHOW INCREASE

DECLINE in pig production in Pennsylvania which started sharply in 39 as a result of low prices, has been lted and an increase may result this ar, according to the Federal-State sur- y released by the State Department of riculture. With prices at a record high d requests from the Federal government to increase production as a defense easure, the upturn in the pig raising cle has begun.

There was a reduction in the number pigs saved from December 1, 1940 to ne 1 this year from 409,000 in the evious comparable period to 353,000, used by the decline in the number of ws which farrowed in the previous Fall son. The number of sows which rrowed in this Spring season from ecember 1 to June 1 is considerably low the number which farrowed in the milar season a year earlier, the figure ing 55,000 compared with 67,000, but e decline has been stopped as is indi- ted by the fact that an equal number of ws are indicated to farrow in the Fall son from June to December. This tter figure represents a decrease from ,000, the number of sows which rrowed during the 1940 Fall season. n increase in pig production is foreseen a possibility because of the increase the average litter from 6.1 in 1940 6.4 this year.

For the country at large the number of gs saved in the Spring season is esti- ted at 50,083,000 compared with ,066,000 for 1940. The number of sows at farrowed in the Spring season this ar, estimated at 7,876,000, was five rcent smaller than the 1940 crop. This crease in sows was offset by the larger mber of pigs saved per litter.

The number of hogs over six months d on June 1 was considerably smaller an a year earlier. The decrease was out nine percent for the United States. continuing improvement in hog prices ring the next month may result in in- ases larger than are now indicated. If e number of sows to farrow in the Fall son is about as now indicated and ters should average about the same as st Fall, the Fall pig crop will be about million head, which would be the gest Fall crop on record. The com- ed Spring and Fall crop would be out 83 million head, which would be out five percent larger than the com- ed crop of 1940, but three percent low the 1939 crop.

## PARALYSIS CAUSE OF HEAVY POULTRY LOSS

A GREAT number of the chicks hatched during this year's hatching season d surviving the hazards of chick in- cy, are now from four to six months d and at this age are most susceptible to wl or range paralysis, one of the most mmonly occurring diseases of chickens, is pointed out by the Bureau of Animal dustry of the Department of Agricul- e. It is said to have been assuming gressively greater proportions during e past 12 years, until today it is one of e major problems confronting the ultry industry.

Fowl paralysis occurs usually in ickens which are from three to nine nths of age but may attack chicks as ung as five weeks. Birds more than 18 nths old are rarely affected. The me range paralysis is commonly used cause the disease most frequently urs during the age when chickens are range.

The disease, as a rule, is of a chronic ure, usually affecting only a few birds a time. The first sign of the disease to observed is a slight lameness or droop- g of one wing and frequently a greyish coloration of the iris of the eye. As e disease advances the leg or wing comes useless and the bird goes down ng in the position of one leg forward d the other backward. The appetite the bird is not affected but being un- le to procure food and water it soon comes emaciated. Most of the birds e in two to three weeks after the first mptoms are noted. Rarely do any ds recover.

Since there is no known remedy it is rised that the birds be removed from e flock and destroyed upon giving the evidence of the disease. It is stated at the birds are usually good for food vided they are otherwise in good ysical condition.

## POULTRYMEN SALVAGE ALUMINUM LEG BANDS

AS a result of the shortage of aluminum and its having been placed on the priorities list for defense by the Federal Government, poultry breeders are facing a problem of procuring leg bands for their chickens. Aluminum bands are used exclusively by the Bureau of Markets of the Department of Agriculture in the poultry standardization work in classifying chickens for breeding and egg production.

Agents of the department are now engaged in gathering discarded bands on the various farms and are urging all poultrymen to forward old bands to the Bureau of Markets, Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg and efforts will be made to procure permission from the Priorities Office in Washington to have those bands processed for use as new bands. Under that plan, if sufficient old bands can be procured, it would not be necessary to request new supplies of aluminum.

## REDUCTION SHOWN IN STORED COMMODITIES LIST PA. HOLDINGS

HOLDINGS of commodities in cold storage in Pennsylvania on July 1 were reported to the Department of Agriculture as follows: Butter, 7,019,000 pounds; American cheese, 2,512,000 pounds; eggs, 300,000 cases; frozen eggs, 6,483,000 pounds; poultry, 4,272,000 pounds, and cream, 35,000 forty-quart cans.

Throughout the country reports on cold storage holdings indicate increases in frozen fruits, frozen vegetables, manufactured dairy products, eggs and lard.

Frozen poultry and meat holdings were reduced during June. The heaviest into-storage movement was in creamery butter stocks, which showed an increase during June of 63½ million pounds. Frozen fruit stocks were increased by nearly 28 million pounds, frozen vegetables by 13 million, cheese by 23 million pounds, shell eggs by 1 million cases, frozen eggs by slightly more than 36 million pounds, and lard by about 2 million pounds.

Frozen poultry stocks were reduced by 1½ million pounds, frozen and cured beef holdings by about eight million, and pork by 93⅓ million pounds. The net reduction in stocks of all frozen and cured meats totaled approximately 104 million pounds.

Compared with the same date a year earlier stocks of frozen fruits were 1,608,000 pounds less, frozen vegetables 4,179,000 pounds greater, creamery butter 39¼ million pounds more, cheese 27½ million pounds heavier, shell eggs one million cases below and frozen eggs 28 million pounds larger. Frozen poultry, frozen and cured beef, frozen and cured pork, total frozen and cured meats, and lard stocks exceeded those of a year earlier by 3½ million, 22⅓ million, 106½ million, 124½ million, and 61 million pounds, respectively.

## PESTS ON RAMPAGE IN CENTRAL PENNA.

REPORTS to the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture show that the locust leaf miner, the insect which attacks locust tree leaves, is considerably more prevalent than usual this year in the central counties of this State. In many areas the leaves of the trees have turned brown and are partly eaten by the attacking insect.

The locust leaf miner is small in size and is found between the two layers of the leaf. It attacks the leaf in the season after the tree has made most of its growth and does, therefore, not cause great damage to the tree in any one season. However, continued attacks will weaken the tree in time and make it subject to attacks by the locust borer which will soon cause the tree to die. The miner is different from most other parasites and insects which attack trees in that it does not follow a cycle but is generally prevalent each year but occurs in greater force in some sections than in others during some seasons.

### Snap-Bean Production

Snap-bean production in Pennsylvania is estimated at 4,300 tons compared with 4,200 tons last year.

## IMPROVED CONDITION FOR LIVESTOCK SEEN AS HELP TO FARMER

THERE is no factor of greater importance to the farmer than the improvement of conditions among livestock to assure disease and parasite free herds, both of which cause tremendous losses annually, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light has declared. "This," stated Mr. Light, "is particularly true at this time when agriculture is faced with increased costs and labor shortages as a result of the defense program which require that every possible principle of good management and efficiency be strictly followed if serious financial situations are to be avoided. Slipshod methods must be replaced with courses of operation which make every step an accomplishment and which sees every form of waste as representing dollars and cents taken out of the farmer's pocket.

"Livestock is an important branch of agriculture in this State. In some form it accounts for a large part of the income on practically every farm. This being the case, improper management which permits of the continued prevalence of disease and parasites among animals, will cause untold hardship for the farmer and may lead to financial disaster. Under good management losses from these sources can be reduced to a minimum and not to follow these principles is to make of the farmer a slave to waste.

"The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has as its sole purpose the improving of conditions among livestock. The services of that Bureau are available to agriculture, it is constantly engaged in work looking toward the elimination of Bang's disease and tuberculosis, through the laboratory types of diseases are established, expert advice is available for any conditions and with this service offered by the State there seems to be no excuse for the tremendous losses which are met with by the farmer among his livestock and for the continuation of conditions which cut down so greatly the income which could be derived from that source."

According to the Bureau of Animal Industry many herd owners believe that blood testing and slaughtering of diseased cattle will alone assure the elimination of Bang disease. This, it is insisted, is not the case for without the full cooperation of the owner in proper execution of basic principles from the standpoint of herd management, the results are likely to be most disappointing. Among the necessary courses to be followed are the calving of animals away from the main herd, not to add animals of which the health status is not known, indiscriminately to the herd, permitting the cattle to come into contact with probably a neighbor's cattle which might not be clear of infection, care against having persons enter the barn who might have come from infested farms and the proper disposal of refuse.

Swine sanitation, it is pointed out, pays big dividends as the infestation of parasites destroys and causes more runty pigs than any other condition with the exception of the infectious diseases. Farmers can produce cheaper and more profitable pork if they will adopt a system of swine management, it is declared, so as to prevent the little pigs from swallowing the worm eggs. This can be accomplished by the thorough scrubbing and disinfecting of the farrowing quarters. Pigs should be confined to clean pastures until they are at least four months old. Experience has shown that pigs raised on uncontaminated soil up to that age are usually reasonably resistant to infestation and usually remain thrifty until they are ready for market. Pigs free from infestation produce more pork on less feed than do pigs infested with worms.

These same principles hold true with raising of lambs, it is declared. Sheep probably suffer more from parasites than do any other kind of livestock which cause most of the losses in mutton and wool. Lambs are very susceptible to parasites and their quarters should therefore be scrubbed and disinfected. The rotation of pastures and the use of forage crops are most essential in the raising of healthy sheep. A dipping vat is said to be an absolute necessity as sheep lice and ticks can be destroyed only by the dipping method.

The control of parasites of poultry has become more and more important as that industry has developed in recent years.



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## SCHOOL PUPILS HELP TO ERADICATE PESTS

THE Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture receives many calls from schools or similar agencies for assistance or cooperation along the lines of their activities, particularly nature study subjects. Some of these cooperative projects result in information of interest to the general public. Professor James W. Moyer of the Phoenixville Schools, who teaches biology to the young folks of that vicinity, and who spends a few days each year at the Bureau laboratory reports the following results on tent caterpillar eradication. His pupils during the 1940-41 term collected 39,512 egg masses of the tent caterpillar in their locality. Since most egg masses contain about 400 eggs each, more than 15 million tent caterpillars were prevented from feeding upon the foliage of shade, fruit and forest trees in that area.

## PA. MAPLE PRODUCTS VALUED AT $200,000

MAPLE products produced last year in Pennsylvania had a total value of $200,000, according to records of the Department of Agriculture. The value of the total sales was $171,000 and the value of the sugar and sirup used in the farm household was $29,000.

Production of maple sugar amounted to 36,000 pounds of which 30,000 pounds were sold at an average season price of 27 cents per pound, and 6,000 pounds were used in the farm household. Production of maple sirup amounted to 112,000 gallons of which 96,000 gallons were sold at an average season price of $1.70 per gallon, and 16,000 gallons were used in the farm household.

The total value of maple products produced in this State in 1939 was $230,000, the sugar production having amounted to 33,000 pounds and the production of sirup having totaled 129,000 gallons. The price received for the sugar was 26 cents per pound and the price per gallon for sirup was the same as last year.

## 72,290 ACRES USED FOR TRUCK CROPS

PRELIMINARY surveys show that a total of 24,260 acres are planted in Pennsylvania to all commercial truck crops which will be sent to the fresh market, according to the Department of Agriculture. The acreage planted to truck crops which will be used for processing totals 48,030, making a total of 72,290 acres planted to all truck crops for both the fresh market and for processing. The total acreage compares with a harvested acreage last year of 67,240 acres and with 43,710 acres as the previous 10-year average. The increase is in crops for processing which has advanced from 42,670 acres last year and the previous 10-year average of 24,890 acres. The acreage of market crops harvested last year was 24,570 and the previous 10-year average, 18,820 acres.

## EXPECT BIG ADVANCE IN LETTUCE YIELDS

A LARGE increase in the lettuce crop in this State this year is indicated by reports to the Department of Agriculture. There was an increase in acreage from 330 acres last year to 370 acres this year and yields are also expected to be considerably above last year when the average yield per acre was 155 crates compared with an indicated 170 crates this year. Total production is estimated at 63,000 crates compared with 51,000 crates last year and the previous 10-year average of 63,000 crates.

## REPORT APPLE CROP LOWER THAN LAST YR.

THE condition of the Pennsylvania apple crop as reported in the last survey of the Federal-State service issued by the State Department of Agriculture, was 59 percent of normal compared with 62 percent last year at that period and the previous 10-year average of 55 percent, according to Secretary John H. Light. The condition of the crop in New York was 58 percent of normal; Maryland, 61 percent; Virginia, 61 percent and West Virginia, 59 percent.

## 247,679 CATTLE ARE BANG TESTED DURING SIX-MONTH PERIOD

DURING the six-month period ending July 1 a total of 17,308 herds comprising 247,679 cattle were tested for Bang disease on the individual and area plans under direction of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the State Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced. In that number there were 3,053 infected herds and 7,458 cattle reacted to the test showing they were affected by the disease.

The tests covered 55 complete townships in various counties in addition to initial tests having been made in the counties of Blair and Huntingdon. It having been the first time that area tests were made in those counties the number of reactors was consequently above the number found in those sections in which retests are conducted, but Blair County is said to have had a higher number of reactors than are usually found on original tests, the total exceeding six percent of the cattle tested.

All the cattle in 20 counties and in 511 townships in 29 different counties have now been tested. The counties are Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Venango, Wyoming, Clinton, Armstrong, Clearfield, Juniata, Lawrence, Huntingdon and Blair. All of those counties excepting Lawrence, Huntingdon and Blair, have been declared Modified Accredited Bang Disease Free Areas by reason of the infection having been reduced to one percent or less of the total number of cattle and five percent or less of the number of herds in the area.

The report shows that in the tests made during the period including all plans which are initial and retests at the owners' expense, partial and miscellaneous tests, area initial and retests and area initial and retests at the owners' expense, the herd infection was 17.6 percent and the cattle infection three percent.

On July 1 there was a total of 67,609 herds and 579,349 cattle under supervision of the Bureau of Animal Industry compared with 64,518 herds and 555,032 cattle on January 1. In addition to the cattle there was a total of 104 herds consisting of 935 goats under Bang test supervision.

During the six-month period State indemnities totaling $332,937.98 and Federal indemnities amounting to $245,512.49, or a total of $578,450.47 have been paid.

The report also shows that since March 1 when regulations were promulgated by the Department for the vaccination of calves as a Bang disease preventive measure, 61 calfhood vaccination permits have been issued and 45 reports have been received covering 45 herds involving 423 calves.

## SPINACH CROP SHOWS INCREASE OVER 1940

INDICATED production of spinach in Pennsylvania this year is considerably in excess of the 1940 crop, according to reports of the State Department of Agriculture issued by Secretary John H. Light. The acreage planted this year is 1,800 acres compared with 1,700 acres last year and the previous 10-year average of 1,160 acres.

Preliminary reports estimate yields at 310 bushels compared with 300 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 314 bushels. Total production is placed at 558,000 bushels compared with 510,000 bushels in 1940 and a 10-year average of 358,000 bushels.

### Green Pea Production

Total production of green peas in Pennsylvania on July 15 was estimated to be 7,400 tons compared with 8,580 tons in 1940 and 3,570 tons the 10-year (1930-39) average. The 1941 acreage was placed at 8,000 acres which compares with 7,000 acres last year and the 10-year average of 3,860 acres.

### Corn In Good Condition

Corn is reported to be in good condition throughout the State, but is entering the stage when ample moisture is essential. The Japanese beetle is feeding heavily on silks in quite a number of fields in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

## EARLY SEGREGATION OF POULTRY ADVISED

IN advice given by the Bureau of Markets of the Department of Agriculture in the care and disposition of poultry, it is pointed out that segregation of young birds at the proper time is most important if the greatest return is to be realized. It is stated that ordinarily mixed cockerel and pullet chicks purchased in May are sufficiently matured in July and August to be separated which will permit the pullets to more rapidly develop into layers and the cockerels to be better finished for marketing.

It is further pointed out that it may not be good practice to withhold young birds from the market if they are ready for sale as broilers even though many birds are going to market by reason of the big increase in the number of chicks sold up to this time this year. Prices may not be higher later in the season and as all records indicate that it requires nearly eight pounds of live-weight chicken to purchase 100 pounds of feed, there is a possibility that even some advance in price will not compensate for the longer feeding period.

It is, however, essential that the producer be acquainted with market conditions in his locality in order that he may be able to decide properly about the best times to sell his birds. The size of the broilers most desired varies in the different markets. There are a few markets where some squab broilers weighing from three quarters to one pound live-weight can be marketed to an advantage. Disposal of birds as broilers relieves congested housing conditions permitting the better development of birds to be kept for the laying flocks and also reduces the feeding costs.

## INCREASE INDICATED IN U. S. GRAPE CROP

ALTHOUGH grape production in Pennsylvania due to freezing temperatures during the Spring in the Erie section, is indicated to show a decrease of 5,300 tons below the 23,000 tons produced last year, production for the country at large is expected to increase from 2,543,910 tons last year to 2,553,820 tons this year. The latest reports of the Federal-State service issued by the State Department of Agriculture indicate the condition of the crop to be 62 percent of normal which is the same as the crop in Ohio and the lowest of any of the grape producing states.

In addition early damage caused by freezing temperatures in the Erie section, high winds during the early part of June caused young shoots to be blown from grape vines. Canes in some vineyards were broken off. Lack of moisture made cultivation difficult. Clusters are rather loose and not too numerous due to the severe freezes just as the buds were developing.

## YELLOW SWEET CORN IS GREATLY FAVORED

BANTAM and other yellow varieties of sweet corn are far in the lead as favorites over the white varieties in Pennsylvania, according to the Department of Agriculture. This year a total of 12,200 acres are planted to sweet corn, 7,320 of which are producing Bantam and other yellow varieties. Of the remaining acres 4,030 acres are planted to Evergreen and narrow grain varieties and 850 acres to Country Gentleman. The total sweet corn acreage last year was 11,900 acres.

The latest survey shows the condition of sweet corn to be 89 percent of normal compared with 84 percent on that date last year and 80 percent as the average for the previous 10-year period.

## Complete Planting of Late Pa. Celery

MOST of the late celery crop has been planted in this State and has made a good start, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. Cool nights in the Western counties have aided growth with early celery being clean but blight is beginning to show in some fields.

In the Western counties early cabbage was generally a full crop. Cabbage in the Northeastern section is reported to be of excellent quality. In the Eastern section some loss occurred due to rot.



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## FARM PRICES, COSTS BOTH ADVANCE OVER BASE ONE YEAR AGR.

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased 7 points during the month ended July 15, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The general level of prices received by farmers at local markets in the United States during the month ended July 15 advanced 7 points to continue a rise that has totaled 22 points since March 15. At 125 percent of the 1910-14 average, prices of farm products were higher on July 15 than for any month since March 1937. On July 15, last year, prices were only 95 percent of the pre-war level. The price advance was quite general, with all groups of products except fruit and truck crops sharing in it. Meat animals were 9 points higher than a month earlier; chickens and eggs were up 9 points; dairy products 8 points; and grains 2 points. Compared with a year ago all groups were higher. Meat animals were up 44 points; cotton and cottonseed 41 points; chickens and eggs 39 points; truck crops 32 points; dairy products 27 points; grain 20 points; and fruit 4 points. Improvement in domestic demand, now becoming quite marked, and actions under the "food-for-defense" program are largely responsible for the rise in prices received by farmers.

Prices in Pennsylvania follow:

| | | July 15 1940 | July 15 1941 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | Bu. | $ .80 | $ .98 |
| Corn | Bu. | .73 | .83 |
| Oats | Bu. | .44 | .45 |
| Barley | Bu. | .50 | .58 |
| Rye | Bu. | .64 | .65 |
| Buckwheat | Bu. | .70 | .63 |
| Potatoes | Bu. | .95 | 1.05 |
| Apples | Bu. | 1.15 | 1.05 |
| Hay | Ton | 10.60 | 10.50 |
| Hogs | Cwt. | 6.40 | 10.50 |
| Beef cattle | Cwt. | 8.10 | 9.10 |
| Veal calves | Cwt. | 9.60 | 11.10 |
| Sheep | Cwt. | 3.65 | 3.85 |
| Lambs | Cwt. | 9.00 | 10.00 |
| Milk cows | Head | 77.00 | 88.00 |
| Horses | Head | 125.00 | 111.00 |
| Mules | Head | 130.00 | 121.00 |
| Chickens | Lb. | .164 | .193 |
| Turkeys | Lb. | .21 | .230 |
| Butter | Lb. | .27 | .35 |
| Eggs | Doz. | .214 | .297 |
| Wool | Lb. | .33 | .41 |

The farmers' purchasing power rose three points during the month ending July 15 to 102 taking the period from 1910-14 as a base representing 100. This represented a gain of four points over the figure of one year previously.

The prices which farmers pay also rose to 129 representing an advance of three points above those of a month earlier and a seven point rise above the prices of a year previously.

## GRADES RETAINED IN TOMATO INSPECTION

IN response to numerous requests from tomato growers, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced that there have been no changes in the official grades for cannery tomatoes, and that state inspectors will grade the 1941 crop the same as in 1940. Secretary Light, advised that it is possible for processors to change certain phases of the grade specifications in contracting with the growers, and that these grade changes are recognized by the inspectors if the growers and the Department of Agriculture are notified of the grade changes in writing.

Mr. Light stated that the U. S. cannery tomato grades which are official for use in this State have been in constant use since 1927 and that grade changes are seldom requested by processors since they have proved equitable to both buyers and sellers.

## FEWER EARLY APPLES SHIPPED THIS YEAR

SHIPMENT reports of the Department of Agriculture show that from July 10 to August 2, two carlot shipments of Pennsylvania apples were made, compared with 17 carlots during the same period last year. Purchases by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation accounted for many of the shipments at the opening of last year's season. Total shipments for the last season amounted to 246 carlots.

## CANNERIES OPENING SEASON'S OPERATIONS

CANNERIES and fruit packing houses of the State are now opening for the processing of the 1941 fruit and vegetable crops, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture.

State licensed inspectors will be stationed at most of these canning plants or shipping points to certify the grade of the products processed or shipped as fresh fruits and vegetables.

One of the heaviest canning seasons the State has ever had is expected unless the dry weather now prevalent continues long enough to appreciably curtail the crops of tomatoes, corn and beans. The peach shipping season will start in the Chambersburg-Biglerville district about August 20, and will last for several weeks. The dry weather has not yet curtailed the peach crop.

## PENNA. PEACH SEASON IS ABOUT AT HEIGHT CROP QUALITY HIGH

THE Pennsylvania peach season is about in its height. The season is slightly advanced over previous years due to the early Spring and favorable weather conditions during the ripening period. Plenty of sunshine and not an overabundance of rain have resulted in the finest possible quality of peaches this year, the fruit being of unusual sweetness and firmness.

Picking of the early varieties began the first week of this month which was followed by the marketing of the later varieties beginning about August 18. The season will be ended about the first week in September and it is being urged that housewives arrange for peaches for canning early as the harvest will be completed before the time in past years.

From all official quarters canning of peaches and all fruit is being urged particularly this year to serve as Winter supplies of food to relieve the food situation brought about by the defense program. In view of this fact it is believed that there will be a considerable increase in the demand for peaches.

The Pennsylvania peach crop this year is estimated at 2,340,000 bushels compared with 2,500,000 bushels last year, the decrease in production being caused by late Spring freezing weather which destroyed buds in many sections. But it is reported from all orchards that the quality of the crop is unsurpassed.

The principal peach growing counties in this State are Franklin and Adams, each with an estimated crop of 500,000 bushels, York, production estimated at 125,000 bushels and Berks-Lehigh counties, with a crop estimated at 200,000 bushels. Other heavy producing counties are Delaware, Chester, Cumberland and Erie.

Pennsylvania peaches are greatly favored throughout the Eastern section of the country. They are tree-ripened which means that they have the full flavor and sweetness. They reach the kitchen or table of the household within from 24 to 36 hours after they have been picked because of the highly developed marketing facilities.

## REDUCED LAMB CROP FOR PA. INDICATED

REPORTS of the State Department of Agriculture show a decrease in the 1941 lamb crop in this State, according to surveys completed July 1, Secretary John H. Light has announced. The number of breeding ewes one year and older numbered 268,000 compared with 273,000 in 1940 and the previous 10-year average of 307,000.

A decrease is also shown in the number of lambs saved per 100 one year or older ewes, the number being 91 compared with 92 last year and 96 as the previous 10-year average. According to the reports the indicated lamb crop for this year is 244,000 compared with 251,000 last year and 293,000 as the previous 10-year average.

This situation does not exist throughout the United States, the lamb crop for this year setting a new high record for numbers for the country at large. Estimated at 34,549,000 head, the crop is 1,660,000 head or five percent larger than the previous record crop of last year and 13 percent larger than the average of the crops for the previous 10-year period.

## BIG INCREASE SHOWN IN CASH INCOME FOR FARMERS OF PENNA.

CASH income to Pennsylvania farmers showed a total increase of $7,372,000 in May over May, 1940, according to reports to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The total in May this year was $52,036,000 compared with $44,664,000 in that month last year.

Income from crops showed a decrease, the total in May, 1940 having been $5,596,000 compared with $5,488,000 in that month a year previously. These figures compare with an income from that source of $4,714,000 in May, 1939.

Livestock and livestock products accounted for a total cash income during that month of $20,530,000 compared with $16,736,000 in May, 1940 and $17,177,000 in that month in 1939. The cash income from farm marketings in May this year amounted to $26,018,000 compared with $22,332,000 in that month last year and $21,891,000 in the same month in 1939.

For the five-month period of this year an increase of $22,486,000 in total cash income from all sources is shown compared with the income during the similar period last year. Increases in income from the three listed sources were received during the period. The total from crops was $29,737,000 compared with $29,069,000 last year and $25,465,000 during that period in 1939. Cash income from livestock and livestock products amounted to $87,930,000 during the first five months of this year compared with $77,355,000 during that period last year and $76,517,000 during those months in 1939.

Farm marketings brought a total of $117,667,000 during the first five months of this year compared with $106,424,000 for that period last year and $101,982,000 for the period in 1939.

Surveys indicate that during the next few months cash farm income should make at least the usual seasonal increase from the income received in June. With favorable prospects for most crops and with prices substantially higher than a year ago, income from crops during the heavy marketing season is expected to total much more than in the same months of 1940. While income from livestock and livestock products may not continue to show quite as marked an increase over 1940 as has prevailed in recent months, price and production prospects indicate that income from these products will continue sharply higher than a year earlier.

## CONDITIONS VARY IN PA. VEGETABLE AREAS

THE heavy rainfall during late July in the Bucks-Philadelphia area seriously damaged mature snap beans and supplies which should have been moving at peak volume were lowered considerably, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. Harvest was difficult and quality was poor. Fields planted for the late crop harvest were badly washed by the rains. In the western part of the State snap beans made excellent growth. A good crop was harvested although some fields were poor and others showed much damage from bean beetles.

Early bunched beets from southeastern Pennsylvania will continue in good supply during the month but peak volume of marketings has passed.

Rains in the southeastern area have washed carrot fields and foliage is not too good with weeds being very difficult to control due to the shortage of help. Growers in Lackawanna-Luzerne counties report that moisture has been ample and the crop is making good growth but weeds are becoming troublesome.

In the western counties early cabbage was generally a full crop. Cabbage of excellent quality is moving from the Columbia-Luzerne-Schuylkill area. In the Bucks-Philadelphia area some loss has occurred to cabbage in the field due to rot. The late Danish crop planting is about complete. Growth of the crop has been generally good in the Erie Co. area although stands in some fields are uneven due to too dry weather which followed early planting. Worms have been getting thick in some fields where dusting has been lagging. Late cabbage is heading fast in the Columbia-Luzerne-Schuylkill area with aphis and worms appearing in some fields but they are well under control.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## EXPECT HONEY CROP TO BE DOUBLE THAT OF AVERAGE GOOD YEAR

PENNSYLVANIA beekeepers are harvesting one of the largest crops of honey that has been produced in many years. Estimates received by the Department of Agriculture place the crop at approximately six million pounds compared with an average annual production of between three and four million pounds. Unusually favorable early Spring weather which brought full bloom to the locust and dandelion and well distributed rainfalls throughout the season of blossoms have made ideal conditions for honey. The prospects are also good for a large flow of Fall nectar due to the healthy condition of the later honey plants at this time of the season.

The inspection of apiaries by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture is being carried on in full force, the work having extended into 41 counties up to the middle of July. At that time the inspection work covered 924 apiaries consisting of 31,626 colonies of bees. This work is being done under the program inaugurated by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, through which the entire State will have a complete inspection every three years. Previously some sections of the State had no inspections for six and more years.

The favorable season this year will provide for a flow to market of about 3,000 tons of honey of many flavors. Honey is the only natural sweet, requiring no treatment, but can be used as it is produced by the bees in the comb or extracted and used as a sirup.

Honey should be stored in a warm dry place to preserve its aroma and prevent crystallization. It should not be placed in a refrigerator or in a damp cellar. Should it become crystallized, it can be liquified by heating to 160 degrees without harm to the honey.

Colonies of bees recently examined by the inspectors contained five full-depth layers of honey which is more than 200 pounds to a colony. It is said that the bee business can be operated profitably when colonies produce 100 pounds. Some beekeepers in this State maintain 300 to 200 colonies of bees and produce 10 to 15 tons of honey in a season.

## 1940 PA. APPLE CROP HAD VALUE OF MORE THAN 7 MILLIONS

THE 1940 Pennsylvania apple crop had a total value of $7,280,000, according to the report issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, which lists the total production at 9,100,000 bushels. This compares with a total yield of 10,998,000 bushels in 1939 which had a total value of $6,261,000. The season average price per bushel received by the farmer last year was 80 cents compared with 64 cents in 1939.

Of the total 1940 production 1,409,000 bushels were used in the farm household which left the balance of 7,691,000 bushels which were placed on the market, the total value of the sales having been $6,158,000.

According to the latest reports the indicated production for this year is 7,730,000 bushels, which is close to the 1935 to 1939 average yield of 9,317,000 bushels. The latest survey also shows the apple crop to be 62 percent of normal compared with 61 percent at the same period last year and a previous 10-year average of 57 percent.

According to nation-wide reports it is indicated that the production in the 36 leading apple states will be 125,568,000 bushels compared with 114,391,000 bushels last year and the previous 10-year average yield of 125,310,000 bushels.

## SUGGESTS NOVEL WAY OF CATCHING RATS

WHAT is looked upon as a novel method, but which is claimed to be highly efficient one for the extermination of rats, has been advanced by Ed. W. Mitchell, who conducts a farm radio forum. The method is as follows: Place a brick and about four inches of water in a 50-gallon barrel. Cover the top of the barrel with heavy paper across which has been cut a large "X". Hang a bait over the cross. The first rat will fall through the cut in the paper to the bottom of the barrel and will then scramble to the brick to keep out of the water. As soon as two rats are in the barrel, they will fight for a place on the brick. Other rats will be attracted to the bait by the scrambling of the rats, they fall into the barrel with the result that the rat population is reduced.

## CANNING SEASON IN FULL SWING IN STATE

THE 1941 home canning season is now in full swing and according to reports to the Department of Agriculture, may prove to be the heaviest canning season in many years. Pennsylvania grown fruits and vegetables suitable for home canning are now being harvested in sufficient quantities to permit housewives to purchase in wholesale quantities. Among the commodities are peaches, pears, corn, tomatoes, lima beans and snap beans.

According to the latest reports the recent dry weather did not curtail the supply of peaches and other tree fruits generally but the lack of normal rainfall has reduced the vegetable crops to some extent.

It is being urged that housewives avail themselves of the opportunity of canning as much fruit and vegetables as possible in view of the fact that food prices are generally listed to continue the upward trend in price to figures considerably above those which prevailed previous to the defense program. It is also urged that home canning will lessen the demand for food supplies during the Winter months and reduce the possibility of shortages in some lines as the result of the heavy defense requirements.

## HEAVY BEAN LOSS IS REPORTED AS RESULT OF LABOR SHORTAGE

AN acute labor shortage prevails in the vegetable growing areas of this State according to reports to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture.

According to a report from one of the canning areas it was estimated that between 50 and 75 acres of beans were lost within two days in the height of the season as labor for harvesting was not available. The hot weather caused heavy losses daily. It was further stated that one cannery alone estimated that its production will be at least 20,000 cases of beans below the anticipated production.

It is stated by the farmers and canneries in those areas that most of the labor which was available in former years for vegetable harvesting has procured employment in defense industries. Efforts were made to procure the services of boys and girls of school age but few of them are said to have responded.

Due to favorable conditions during the growing season the bean crop was good but the heavy losses reported as the result of lack of labor will cut considerably the actual production. Government officials are urging that production of food products be increased to assure supplies for the defense program.

## LESS WOOL PRODUCED THIS YEAR IN PENNA.

WOOL shorn from sheep in Pennsylvania this year totaled 2,694,000 pounds, according to reports to the State Department of Agriculture. The amount, however, represents a reduction in the wool crop as compared with last year when sheep from this State produced 2,834,000 pounds. The figure is also considerably below that of the previous 10-year average which shows an annual production of 3,141,000 pounds.

The weight per fleece this year was 7.4 pounds compared with 7.7 pounds last year and 7.5 pounds as the previous 10-year average. The number of sheep shorn was 364,000 compared with 368,000 last year and 420,000 as the average for the years from 1930 to '39.

The quantity of wool shorn and to be shorn throughout the United States this year is estimated at 399,941,000 pounds which is the largest national production of shorn wool on record, being about three percent larger than the previous high production in 1940 and nine percent above the previous 10-year average.

## UNUSUAL PROGRESS IN REDUCING T. B. IN PA. CATTLE IS SHOWN

DECLARING that remarkable progress is being made in the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle in Pennsylvania, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced that during the first six months of this year only two-thirds of one percent of the cattle tested reacted to the tuberculin test. "Records show a gradual reduction in the infection each year" stated Secretary Light, "and the excellent progress indicated by the reports of the first six months of this year prove conclusively the worth as well as the necessity of a definite program of testing which may not be relaxed."

During the period covered by the report 25,576 herds, comprising 244,275 cattle were tested and of that number only 1,648 cattle were infected.

On a county basis the records show a continued further reduction in the number of cattle which are tuberculin infected. No reactors were found in Cameron County in either the 1938 or the 1941 tests. In Fayette County in 1938 fifty cattle reacted to the test while in the 1941 test only seven cattle were found to be infected, showing a reduction during the three-year period of 86 percent. In Juniata County there was a reduction in diseased cattle of 75 percent, there having been 64 reactors in 1938 and only 16 in the recent test.

A reduction of 50 percent was disclosed in Allegheny County where the number of infected cattle dropped from 45 in 1938 to 23 in 1941. The reduction in Clearfield County was better than 83 percent, only seven cattle having reacted to the test this year compared with 42 in 1938. Upon completion of the records for Armstrong County it is believed that a reduction of 70 percent in infected cattle will be shown. It is also believed that no reactors will be found in Clarion County upon the completion of those records, only three infected cattle having been in the herds in the test of 1938.

Current figures for Lancaster County where the test is now being completed show an approximate reduction of 33 percent in the number of tuberculin infected cattle. Results in the recently completed test in Lebanon County show a reduction of 66 percent since the test three years ago when 274 cattle out of a total of 16,000 reacted compared with only 83 reactors from a total of 16,970 cattle tested this year.

Testing is conducted on a three-year program, approximately one third of the cattle of the State being tested each year.

## TOBACCO CROP ABOVE NORMAL IN PENNA.

THE Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco crop is above normal and from 10 days to two weeks earlier than usual, according to surveys of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced. Although the crop had been making excellent progress, the dry weather recently prevailing may retard growth. Topping is general and well advanced with cutting of early plantings having reached the peak about the middle of August and later plantings expected to reach the peak toward the latter part of September. No serious rust or wild fire has occurred and the crop is quite free of worm damage up to this time. The Pennsylvania Havana seed tobacco looks fair, being in need of rain, and is about 10 days earlier than usual.

Latest indications placed the production this year of seedleaf tobacco in this State at 53,550,000 pounds compared with the 1940 production of 49,098,000 pounds. The indicated yield per acre is 1,500 pounds compared with 1,470 pounds last year. There are 35,700 acres planted to this type compared with 33,400 acres in 1940.

Indicated production of Pennsylvania Havana seed is placed at 480,000 pounds which is a reduction below last year's crop when 492,000 pounds were produced, although the 300 acres planted is the same as the 1940 acreage. Yields per acre are listed at 1,600 pounds compared with 1,640 pounds last year.

Growing conditions are reported to be favorable in practically all cigar tobacco areas so far this season. The latest indications place the United States crop of cigar tobacco at a total of 143,751,000 pounds.



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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

l. 26 Harrisburg, September 4, 1941 No. 36

SEP 23 1941

## TIMOTHY SEED YIELD DECREASES IN PENNA. PRICE HAS ADVANCED

RODUCTION of timothy seed this year in the United States, estimated 1,162,000 bushels or 52,290,000 pounds thresher-run seed, is about seven per- t smaller than last year's production 1,246,900 bushels and 33 percent below previous 10-year average production 1,729,010 bushels according to reports the Department of Agriculture. The duction from last year is attributed to a percent decrease in acreage, which was et in part by better yields this year. is estimated that 360,900 acres will be vested this year, compared with ,200 acres last year and 483,210 acres, 10-year average.

Drought in April and May in some tes, particularly Indiana, Ohio, and nsylvania caused many farmers to cut ir timothy for hay instead of for seed. nds were not so heavy as last year in y sections, but the timothy heads e fairly long and well filled. Yields of d are reported to be turning out better n expected, with the average for the ited States 3.22 bushels per acre, com- ed with 3.03 bushels in 1940 and 3.31 hels, the 10-year average. Produc- in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania is icated to be much below that of 1940. Growers indicated that they intended ell 76 percent of their crop to dealers 13 percent to farmers, leaving 11 per- t for sowing on their own farms. se percentages are nearly identical h those reported for the 1940 crop. If wers carry out their intentions, dealers y be expected to handle about 803,000 hels of clean new-crop seed, compared h about 871,000 bushels last year.

Prices offered to growers about August veraged $1.62 a bushel or $3.60 per pounds for clean seed, compared with 0 a bushel or $2.89 per 100 pounds year and $1.80 a bushel or $4.00 per pounds the 10-year average for responding dates.

Carry-over of clean seed on farms is ed at approximately 88,000 bushels pared with about 106,000 bushels last and 143,000 bushels in 1939. Carry- r by dealers likewise was smaller than ear ago, as shown by the recent stocks vey. On June 30 of this year dealers 318,551 bushels of old timothy seed, percent less than a year earlier.

Exports of timothy seed for the first 5 nths of this year totaled 3,995,595 nds, compared with 5,959,580 pounds year and 3,660,171 pounds, the 10- r average for the same period.

## PA. GRAPE CROP IS AR BELOW NORMAL

EPORTS to the Department of Agriculture indicated on August 1 the 1941 Pennsylvania grape crop amount to 16,500 tons compared h 23,000 tons last year and the previ- 10-year average of 21,900 tons. The dition of the crop at that time was ed as being only 62 percent. The 1940 p on that date last year was 80 per- t. The average condition of the crop r the previous 10-year period was 70 cent.

Hail early in the season badly damaged pes in many vineyards of the Erie nty belt. A high wind storm about -July also broke off many new shoots wood growth is not as good as de- d. Buds also froze in some sections as result of cold weather later in the ing.

o insects have been reported and arently the berry-moth is well under rol this year.

Total production of grapes this year in United States is placed at 2,569,400 compared with 2,543,910 tons last r.

## BIG DECLINE SHOWN IN SNAP BEAN CROP

NAP beans in the late group of states which comprise Colorado, Michigan, York, and Pennsylvania are ex- ed to show a yield of 1,895,000 hels. This is a decrease of three per- t from the 1,955,000 bushels harvested year. Lower production is in pros- t in all States except New York, re there is an indicated increase of 32 ent over the 1940 crop. In Pennsyl- a the crop is indicated to be 378,000 hels compared with 536,000 bushels year and the previous 10-year aver- of 335,000 bushels.

## PEACH CANNING IS URGED BY OFFICIALS

COMPLETELY sun-ripened, pink complexioned Pennsylvania peaches of unusual natural sweetness are now at their peak on the markets throughout the Eastern section of the country, the height of the picking season having been reached with great activity in the vast orchards of this State. Weather conditions this season have been unusually favorable for the production of a crop of distinct quality. Due to freezing weather in some sections after the buds had developed, the quantity of the peach crop in this State will be below that of last year but the quality is said to be unsurpassed.

It is generally reported that housewives are complying with the request of government officials to take advantage of the fine crop by canning as many fruits as possible to assure a more economical food supply during the Winter months. Canning is also being encouraged by officials to assure a greater supply of food to be available for the defense program since home canning will relieve the demands on the markets.

Reports to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture show considerable increase in costs of marketing the crop as the result of vastly higher labor costs. The reports also show that in some localities serious labor shortages are being encountered which it is feared may result in some of the crop not being picked.

## 375,199 SPECIMENS DIAGNOSED AT LAB. DURING SIX MONTHS

DURING the first six months of this year 375,199 specimens were received for diagnosis at the laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, according to reports of Dr. C. P. Bishop, head of the Bureau. Of that number 244,185 were specimens from cattle; 123,834 were from chickens; 6,408 from turkeys, and the remainder were from 18 other varieties of animals and fowls and included feed, meat, biologies, water and 26 specimens from humans. The diagnosis of the many specimens covered numerous animal and poultry diseases of an infectious and contagious nature and also diagnosis for various parasites. The diagnoses made of specimens from humans were for Bang disease.

The report shows that a total of 171 heads of animals were examined for rabies, 111 of which proved to be positive. During the period it was reported that 277 persons and 1,024 animals were bitten by or exposed to afflicted animals.

During the six months 38,514 swine on 682 premises throughout the State were vaccinated for hog cholera and that 24 premises were quarantined because of the presence of the disease.

## REPORT SHOWS VALUE OF '40 POTATO CROP

THE report of the production and farm disposition of the 1940 Pennsylvania potato crop, showing that the total yield last year in this State was 24,570,000 bushels has been issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. This compares with a production in 1939 of 22,440,000 bushels.

The total value of the 1940 crop is placed at $15,725,000, or a season average price of 64 cents per bushel received by the farmer. The value of the 1939 crop was $20,645,000, or an average of 92 cents per bushel received by the farmer.

Of the total 1940 yield, 1,720,000 bushels are listed as having been fed to livestock lost through shrinkage and after harvest and 4,392,000 bushels were used in the farm household. A total of 2,320,000 bushels were used for seed on the farm where they were grown, leaving a total of 16,138,000 bushels which were sold, the value of those sales having been $10,328,000.

## BEGIN SHIPMENT OF EARLY PA. POTATOES

BETWEEN the period of July 25, which marked the beginning of marketing the early 1941 Pennsylvania crop, and August 2 a total of 10 carlot shipments of potatoes were made from this State, according to reports to the State Department of Agriculture. During the comparable period last year no shipments were made. The total shipments for the last season were 427 carlots.

## INCREASE INDICATED IN CORN, OATS CROPS WHEAT WILL DECLINE

LATEST surveys of crop conditions in this State indicate increases over last year in the production of corn and oats and decreases in wheat, barley, rye, potatoes and hay. The corn crop was placed at 54,642,000 bushels, compared with a production of 53,640,000 bushels last year, showing an increase in yields per acre of two bushels, the 1940 yield having been 40 bushels. The acreage for harvest this year is 1,301,000 acres compared with 1,341,000 acres in 1940.

The production of wheat is placed at 18,140,000 bushels compared with a crop of 18,594,000 bushels last year. The yield per acre this year is indicated to be 20 bushels compared with 20.5 in 1940. The oats crop is expected to show an increase from 31,080,000 bushels last year to 31,710,000 bushels, the yield per acre of 35 bushels remaining the same. The acreage was increased from 888,000 in 1940 to 906,000 acres this year.

The barley crop is placed at 3,969,000 bushels compared with 4,030,000 in 1940, the average yield per acre indicating an increase from 26 bushels in 1940 to 27 bushels this year. Rye production is expected to decrease from 1,044,000 bushels last year to 966,000 bushels, the acreage having been reduced from 72,000 to 69,000 acres and the yield per acre declining from 14.5 bushels to 14 bushels.

The Pennsylvania potato crop is expected to yield 22,784,000 bushels compared with the 1940 crop of 24,570,000 bushels, the acreage planted having been reduced from 189,000 last year to 178,000 this year. A decline from 130 bushels per acre to 128 bushels is also indicated. This yield, however, compares with a previous 10-year average yield of 120 bushels.

The hay crop is expected to show a total production of 2,785,000 tons compared with the 1940 production of 3,238,000 tons and the previous 10-year average of 2,911,000 tons. A total of 2,422,000 acres are listed as being in hay this year compared with 2,400,000 acres last year, when conditions were unusually favorable for hay production compared with the unfavorable season this year due to lack of rain during the first crop growing season.

## CABBAGE PRODUCTION IN PA. IS BELOW '40

THE cabbage crop for fresh market and kraut for the first section of late States comprising Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey—late crop, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington late crop, and Wisconsin, is indicated to be 413,000 tons. While this is a reduction of seven percent under the 444,300 tons produced in 1940, it is 15 percent larger than the 10-year, 1930-39 average production of 358,600 tons. The Pennsylvania crop is indicated to be 50,200 tons compared with 51,200 tons last year and the 10-year average of 37,600 tons. Most of the cabbage is of domestic types but Danish types in Washington and other minor areas are included. Prospective yields for the group will average one-half ton below the average of last year. In the States of Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, yields are materially above those of last year but in New York and Wisconsin, prospective yields are considerably lower than a year ago.

A small increase in acreage is indicated again this year in the late Danish type States. Indicated acreage for harvest this year in this group which comprises Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin is 34,900 acres which is eight percent more than last year. The 1941 estimated acreage is, however, four percent below the 10-year average. In Pennsylvania the indicated acreage is 3,300 compared with 3,400 acres last year and the 10-year average of 2,690 acres.

### Early Potato Crop Fair

Early potatoes from later plantings did not fully size, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture, and yields are relatively light but quality fair. The late crop is reported in fair to good condition.



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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## ESTIMATE REDUCTION IN PA. POTATO CROP YIELD BELOW 1940

THE production of potatoes in Pennsylvania is estimated at 22,784,000 bushels, based upon August 1 condition, compared with a total production last year of 24,570,000 bushels, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture released by Secretary John H. Light. The acreage this year planted to potatoes in this State is 178,000 acres which is a reduction of 11,000 acres below the 1940 acreage. The indicated yield per acre on August 1 was placed at 128 bushels compared with 130 bushels last year and the previous 10-year average of 120 bushels.

The late potato crop in Pennsylvania came through the dry, hot weather which prevailed during the month of July in fairly good condition. Some blight and tip burn has been reported in a few localities but insects are rather light, with vines vigorous and stands good. In the Potter plateau area moisture conditions were better and the crop has been growing fast but stands are uneven and blight has started in many fields. Dry and hot weather since July 1 has checked growth in the Lehigh-Northampton area and should this weather continue yields will be light and potatoes small. In the Somerset-Cambria mountain area some blight has appeared and vines are said to be drying out. In the southeastern counties yields of the early crop dug so far have been good but in other fields the July heat has killed many Cobbler vines prematurely, and yields are expected to be somewhat lower and tubers small.

The production of potatoes in the United States is estimated at 369,693,000 bushels, and represents an increase of less than one per cent in production over that indicated on July 1. The 1941 crop is seven percent smaller than the 1940 crop of 397,722,000 bushels but is about equal to the previous 10-year average production of 370,045,000 bushels. Production is only slightly larger in the 30 late States as the small increase in the 18 surplus late States was partially offset by a decrease of about one percent in the 12 other States.

The 1941 crop in the 18 surplus late States is seven percent smaller than the 1940 crop and about three percent smaller than the average crop for the 10 years 1930-39. The western States in this group show a decrease of 10 percent in prospective production compared with 1940 but about 13 percent more than the 10-year average. Production for 1941 in the intermediate States is 14 percent smaller than 1940 and six percent below the 10-year average production. The early States have a crop about equal to that of 1940 but 24 percent larger than the 10-year average.

## WARN AGAINST DANGER OF SODIUM CHLORATE IN GRAZING AREAS

WARNING is issued by the Department of Agriculture against the promiscuous use in large quantities by farmers of sodium chlorate in cattle grazing sections to kill weeds. The chemical is widely recommended by agriculturists for destruction of obnoxious plants in fields and pastures as it is deadly plant poison, but it is also deadly to animals if obtained in sufficient quantities.

It is pointed out that livestock owners are frequently prone to spread the chemical in large quantities over weed patches without thought of the danger to grazing animals. Some cattle have a particular liking for sodium chlorate and eagerly consume forage or lick the soil upon which the salt has been sprayed. The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has reports of a number of cases of poisoning of cattle attributed to the chemical.

Sodium nitrate, the Bureau points out, is also deadly to animals, yet in many cases it is left to be accessible. On many farms the chemical is kept in sacks for use as fertilizer but it should be kept out of reach of the cattle as they can break through the bags and in a few minutes consume a sufficient quantity to cause death. In investigating causes of mysterious deaths of cattle the Bureau has found sacks containing the chemical had been thrown on a pile of rubbish in pastures from which cattle had obtained a sufficient quantity to cause death. In another case a farmer fed sodium nitrate in mistake for salt. Deaths have been caused by washing empty fertilizer bags in the watering trough. Sufficient nitrate of soda to cause death may be eaten from the fields where it has been spread for fertilizer.

Cattle having eaten the chemicals are suddenly stricken with severe colic, depression, weakness and finally prostration. Bloating sometimes develops. The poisoning ends fatally within a few hours.

## ADVISE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST BOT FLIES

ATTENTION is directed by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture to precautions which should be taken against the bot flies in horses which are causes of great annoyance and frequent injury to the animals. The bot fly belongs to a family of flies of which the larval or maggot stage is parasitic in habit and includes in addition to the bot fly the warble fly of cattle and the nose fly or "grub in the head" of sheep.

Bot flies are brown hairy insects somewhat resembling a common bee in size and appearance. They prevail only in the summer months. During hot dry weather the female hovers around the vicinity of horses making sudden darts to deposit her eggs. These are attached to the hair on various portions of the horses body. The location chosen varies with the different species, one selecting the fore-legs and lower parts of the body, another species going to the area below and between the jaws and a third species depositing her eggs around the mouth and on the cheeks.

The eggs require 10 days or more to hatch. The hatching of eggs deposited on the legs of the horse is aided by licking and rubbing by the animal. Some of the emerging larvae may bore into the skin, their objective being the stomach of the horse. There they hook themselves firmly to the lining and settle down for a period of growth lasting from 10 to 12 months. When fully grown they release their hold of the stomach lining and escape to the ground by way of the intestinal tract. In the ground a further period of development of from four to eight weeks is passed through before the fully grown fly emerges.

Bot flies are dangerous pests during the egg-laying period, particularly those which deposit their eggs around the horse's head. Horses may be terrorized by their presence and runaways may follow. Horses on pasture are disturbed and uneasy.

Much difference of opinion has been shown in the estimation of the amount of injury caused by the bots or larvae in the stomach. A great many horses harbor a small number of bots without apparent injury to health. In areas where the flies are abundant, however, hundreds of bots may be present in a single animal. Counts of over a thousand have been recorded. The ill effect from such numbers can hardly be doubted, since in addition to the mechanical injury to the lining of the stomach toxic substances are also stated to be produced.

Methods for the control of bot flies lie in the destruction of eggs and the elimination of larvae already in the stomach. The latter is usually done in the late Fall or early Winter. The destruction of eggs may be carried out during the Summer months by the regular clipping off, and burning of egg bearing hair and by weekly application of two percent solution of carbolic acid.

## CELERY ACREAGE IS REDUCED FROM 1940

THE acreage of celery in the late group of states which comprises Pennsylvania, Colorado, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Oregon, is estimated to be 12,690 acres which is a decrease of 10 percent from the 14,110 acres harvested last year but is seven percent greater than the 1930-39 average acreage according to reports of the Department of Agriculture.

The acreage in this State is estimated at 840 acres compared with 930 acres last year and the previous 10-year average of 1,120 acres. Most of the reduction took place in the Tioga County section and in the Central and Western counties of the State. Recent cool nights in Western Pennsylvania have aided growth of the late crop and blight damage has been relatively light to date.

In the group of late states as a whole most of this year's decrease is accounted for in New York.

## 500,000 INCREASE IN PENNA. FARM LAYERS EGG PRODUCTION UP

WITH an increase in the number of layers on Pennsylvania farms of a half million in July this year over the number in that month in 1940, egg production in that month amounted to 179,000,000 eggs compared with 167,000,000 eggs in the comparable month last year, according to reports issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The monthly number of eggs per layer also showed an increase from 14.7 to 15.1. These figures show a seven percent increase over the July 1940 production and reflected the highest August 1 record of 47.1 eggs per 100 layers reached this year.

Egg production in July for the United States, equivalent to 9,733,000 cases was the largest July production since 1929. It was four percent larger than the July production of last year and nine percent above the previous 10-year average. Most of the increased production was due to a record high rate of lay since the average number of layers increased less than one percent over last year. The aggregate egg production for the United States during the first seven months of this year was the largest since the record production of 1930.

Farm flocks during July for the country as a whole were the largest since 1933. Judging from the large increase in young pullets now on farms, the laying flocks this Fall will be 8 to 10 percent larger than last Fall.

Because of much larger hatchings this year, especially late hatchings during July, the number of pullets not yet of laying age on August 1, available for later addition to laying flocks, was 19 percent larger than last year and seven percent larger than on August 1, 1939.

A high level of egg prices during the current hatching season was reflected in a large increase in the 1941 hatch, which will greatly increase the farm laying flocks. Among the factors responsible for this high level of prices were Government egg purchases for relief distribution and shipment to Great Britain and increased domestic demand. In Pennsylvania egg prices received by farmers reached the highest mid-July level in 11 years but these gains were somewhat offset by rising feed costs. Commercial poultry reporters indicated a marked increase in feed costs during July as prices of all feed grains continued to advance.

The number of chickens raised on farms in 1941 will exceed all past records for the United States. Preliminary estimates indicate a production 14 percent larger than 1940. Output of chicks by commercial hatcheries in July is reported 33 percent larger than the output of July 1940, the previous high output for July. Although the production of chicks during July is only a small part of the annual production, the increase reported signifies the optimistic feeling of both hatcherymen and producers. Quite a few of the hatcheries now closed have announced their intentions of opening up this Fall for the first time since they have been in business. This probably means larger hatchings of chicks this Fall and Winter for egg laying purposes as well as for broilers.

## MARKET TOMATOES TO EXCEED 1940 CROP

AN increase from 408,000 bushels last year to 504,000 bushels this year is indicated in the production of tomatoes for market in Pennsylvania according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. The previous 10-year average is 268,000 bushels. The estimated acreage for the State is placed at 2,400 acres compared with 2,150 acres harvested in 1940 and the previous 10-year average of 1,460 acres. The prospective yield for this State is now placed at 210 bushels per acre which is 20 bushels above the 1940 final yield. The 10-year average yield per acre is 180 bushels.

The production in the late states of the country is indicated to be 7,182,000 bushels which is about 20 percent greater than the 5,987,000 bushels harvested last year and 40 percent greater than the 1930-39 average production. Most of the increased production this year is due to higher indicated yields in all states except California, Delaware and Oregon.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## PRICES ADVANCE FOR PA. FARM PRODUCTS COSTS ALSO HIGHER

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased six points during the month ended August 15, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. The United States index of prices received by farmers at 131 percent of the August 1909-July 1914 average on August 15 was six points higher than a month earlier. This rise, following other recent sharp advances, carried the index to a level equal to that of January 1937 and not exceeded since May 1930. On August 15 last year farm product prices averaged only 96 percent of pre-war. All groups of commodities advanced during the past month and all are substantially higher than a year earlier. Meat animals showed a 48 point advance while chickens and eggs were up 40 points, dairy products 26 points and grain 23 points.

Pennsylvania commodity prices were as follows:

| | | Aug. 15 1940 | Aug. 15 1941 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | Bu. | $ .74 | $ .97 |
| Corn | Bu. | .74 | .83 |
| Oats | Bu. | .41 | .42 |
| Barley | Bu. | .51 | .59 |
| Rye | Bu. | .60 | .67 |
| Buckwheat | Bu. | .64 | .61 |
| Potatoes | Bu. | .75 | .85 |
| Apples | Bu. | .90 | .90 |
| Hay | Ton | 9.90 | 10.00 |
| Hogs | Cwt. | 6.50 | 11.00 |
| Beef cattle | Cwt. | 8.00 | 9.30 |
| Veal calves | Cwt. | 9.60 | 11.40 |
| Sheep | Cwt. | 3.65 | 3.80 |
| Lambs | Cwt. | 8.70 | 9.80 |
| Milk cows | Head | 75.00 | 88.00 |
| Horses | Head | 120.00 | 109.00 |
| Mules | Head | 121.00 | 118.00 |
| Chickens | Lb. | .163 | .193 |
| Turkeys | Lb. | .21 | .230 |
| Butter | Lb. | .28 | .35 |
| Eggs | Doz. | .231 | .320 |
| Wool | Lb. | .33 | .40 |

During the year there has been a considerable advance in both the prices the Pennsylvania farmer must pay for the commodities he must buy and also in his purchasing power. Since the advance in both instances was nine points his relative position remains the same.

With 100 as the base representing the average prevailing price from 1910 to 1914, the prices the farmer must pay for commodities rose from 122 on August 15 last year to 131 on that date this year and his purchasing power increased from 97 to 106 leaving his purchasing power 25 points below the scale of prices he must pay for his requirements.

## NEW MENACE FACES FEEDER-PIG INDUSTRY

SWINE dysentery is the latest and most serious threat to the feeder-pig industry, the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has announced.

Even though a great deal of research work has been centered on the disease, the exact cause has not yet been identified.

Dysentery usually appears among newly purchased pigs in from 10 to 30 days. Native pigs on those farms readily contract the trouble from the newly purchased animals.

Affected pigs develop a high fever about 24 hours before they show the characteristic symptoms of the disease. The death loss is heavy and pigs that recover frequently become long haired, thrifty, unprofitable runts. Some of the recovered pigs seem to act as carriers and, once the infection is brought to the farm, the premise is liable to remain contaminated for a long time.

In view of the widespread nature of swine dysentery, it becomes important for each purchaser of new feeder pigs to isolate those animals from his home herd as soon as they are brought to the farm. They should be inspected at least three times daily and any pigs showing signs of sickness should be immediately isolated and the disease diagnosed.

Veterinary research workers have recently advanced the thought that Vitamin G deficiency may have a bearing on the occurrence of swine dysentery. In the event such foods as dried milk, buttermilk, alfalfa meal and alfalfa pasture may serve as preventives.

## FARM LABOR SUPPLY 56 PERCENT OF DEMAND

THE extent of the change in the farm labor situation in Pennsylvania during the current year is seen in the latest reports of the Department of Agriculture which show that the supply is only 56 percent of the demand which compares with the 93 percent last year and the previous five-year average of 98 percent. The prevailing shortage was met to some extent by the employment of boys and elderly men, but in many cases this was reported to be unsatisfactory. To a large extent women of farm families are working in the fields even being engaged in the operation of tractors.

According to the latest labor reports of the Department of Agriculture the demand for farm labor is 98 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year at the comparable period and an average of 87.8 percent over the previous five-year period. The supply is listed as 55 percent of normal which compares with 90 percent in 1940 and the previous five-year average of 85.2 percent.

## COOL NIGHTS RETARD RIPENING OF FRUIT LESS LABOR NEEDED

COOL nights which have prevailed during the latter part of August have proved of great advantage to peach growers according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The lower temperatures caused a slowing up of the ripening of the peaches which spread the harvesting time over a greater period thereby relieving the situation caused by the shortage of labor. When the harvesting season first began much concern was felt about the chances of procuring a sufficient amount of labor to pick the crop but slowing up of ripening caused by the cooler weather did not require that the crop be harvested in as short time as usual permitting of fewer pickers than was anticipated to gather the crop. This condition is said to have prevailed in the earlier peach sections in the Southeastern area of the State where most of the crop has been harvested. It may not operate to the same advantage, it is said, in the Berks-Lehigh section where the peak of the season is nearly two weeks later. In the latter area it was expected that at least 600 to 800 more pickers would be required than were available.

The tomato crop is reported also to have been greatly retarded by the cool nights and some concern is being felt that with ripening having been delayed, much of the crop could be lost if there shall be early frosts. During the latter part of August some of the canneries were able to operate only two days a week in a period when they normally are in full time operation because the ripening of the crop had been retarded. This condition is bringing relief from the shortage of labor but is also causing concern about the possibilities of reducing the crop should unfavorable weather occur early in the season.

The weather conditions also disrupted the corn canning schedule. Farmers who contract with canneries for their crops are given dates upon which to plant and these are separated to permit of a steady flow of corn to the canneries and prevent all of it being available at the same time. The past season, however, having been exceedingly dry the earlier planted corn did not germinate and later rains caused the later planted crop to catch up in growth and maturity with that which was planted earlier. The result has been that in some cases corn flooded into the canneries beyond the capacity to can it. Some of it was shipped to canneries in other areas where the same conditions did not exist.

## ESTIMATE INCREASE IN PENNA. LETTUCE

LATEST estimates issued by the Department of Agriculture place the production of lettuce in this State at 56,000 crates compared with 51,000 crates last year. The acreage planted was increased from 330 acres in 1940 to 370 acres this year. The previous 10-year average production for the State is 43,000 crates and the average for that period is 280 acres.

Lettuce production in the late group of states comprising Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, New Mexico and New York, is now indicated to be 4,832,000 crates, or 109,000 crates less than the estimate last month.

## BIG INCREASE SHOWN IN CASH INCOME FOR FARMERS OF PENNA.

PENNSYLVANIA farmers received less cash income from crops in June this year than they received last year and only slightly more than the amount received in June 1939, according to the latest compilation of records issued by the Department of Agriculture. Cash income received from livestock and livestock products, however, showed an increase of more than four million dollars for the same month.

The total cash income from crops in June this year is placed at $4,959,000 as against $5,340,000 in June, 1940 and $4,585,000 in that month in 1939. Cash returns from livestock and livestock products jumped from $16,355,000 in June 1940 to $20,954,000 in that month this year. In June 1939 the total was $16,696,000.

For the first six months of this year cash return from crops was only slightly above that received during the first six months of last year, the total figures for 1940 being $34,696,000 compared with $34,409,000 for the comparable period a year earlier. During the first six months of 1939 the total amounted to $30,050,000.

Cash income from livestock and livestock products which showed little change from the first half of 1939 to the similar period in 1940, advanced more than 15 million dollars this year. The figures for the first six months of 1939 are $93,218,000; for that period last year, $93,710,000 and for the first half of this year, $108,884,000.

Cash income from farm marketings advanced nearly four million dollars iu June this year compared with that month in 1940 when it showed little change from June, 1939. This year the total amounted to $25,913,000; during June last year $21,695,000 was received and during that month in 1939 the amount was $21,281,000.

For the first six months of this year farm marketings produced a cash income of more than 15 million dollars above that received during the first half of 1940 and of more than 20 million dollars greater than during the first six months of 1939. The total this year is $143,580,000 compared with $128,119,000 during the first half of last year and $123,263,000 during the comparable period in 1939.

According to surveys for the country at large the increase in income from June to July was slightly larger than usual. After adjustment for the seasonal variation in income from the different products, income in July was 99 percent of the 1924-29 average compared with 96 percent in June and 71 percent in July last year. Although marketings of grains were restricted somewhat in July by the small movement of wheat the, increase in income from grains from June to July was greater than usual.

## SHORTAGE OF LABOR CAUSES HEAVY LOSS IN PENNA. BEAN CROP

REPORTS to the Department of Agriculture show that in the Southeastern part of Pennsylvania where most of the stringless beans are grown for canning, upwards of 40,000 cases of beans were lost during the peak of the season because of the lack of harvesting labor. Over many acres the beans dried in the fields as pickers were not available.

Many canners annually provide picking crews to harvest the bean crop that had been contracted with the farmers. Other canners contract for beans with the farmers who usually find their own picking labor. This season an acute shortage of that type of labor existed and contacts made with all available agencies and sources could not provide the necessary number of pickers.

The Pennsylvania Canners Association made an effort to procure the services of the enrollees in the CCC Camp located in that area to help in the harvest but arrangements could not be made with Washington officials through which a plan could be operated.

Shortly after the loss of a large part of the bean crop the War Department in Washington contacted the Canners Association inquiring where stringless beans might be procured in Pennsylvania and asked that bids be submitted. It was stated that if the bidding is not voluntary other means will have to be taken to secure beans in the canner's warehouses.



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## OLD RECORDS REVEAL GREAT VARIANCE IN PA. CORN PRODUCTION

INTERESTING data relative to the Pennsylvania corn crop and the variance in production and value are found in the records of the Department of Agriculture which extend back to 1866. The average price of corn per bushel during that period ranged from a low of 33 cents in 1896 when the production was 52,475,000 bushels from 1,311,875 acres, or an average yield of 40 bushels to the acre, to $1.55, the high mark in 1918 when the production was 59,160,000 bushels from 1,470,000 which also brought the average yield to 40 bushels per acre. The value of the crop in the former year was $17,316,750 and the value of the crop in the peak price year was $91,698,000.

The greatest production was attained in 1921 when the total yield amounted to 76,272,000 bushels. In that year, however, the average price per bushel was down to 55 cents bringing the value of the crop to $41,950,000. The average yield per acre was 48 bushels. The most profitable corn year was in 1919 when the crop was valued at $109,231,000. In that year the production was 74,307,000 bushels and the price per bushel averaged $1.47. The average yield was 47 bushels per acre.

The lowest year in crop value was in 1900 when the 32,707,900 bushels had a value of $14,718,555 or an average price per bushel of 45 cents. The average yield per acre was 25 bushels, which was the lowest for all the years recorded. The low production for the period was in 1869 when the crop yielded 29,500,000 bushels, the value of which was $21,505,547 or an average price per bushel of 73 cents.

The number of acres planted to corn struck the low point with 1868 when the total was 913,685. In addition to that year there were only two other years, 1867 and 1869 when the acreage was below the million mark. The high year was 1919 which was also the highest value year. In that year 1,581,000 acres were devoted to the corn crop.

Last year the production was 53,640,000 bushels which had a total value of $38,621,000, or an average price per bushel of 72 cents. The average yield per acre was 40 bushels. The indicated production this year is 54,642,000 bushels or an average yield of 42 bushels per acre.

## CANNERIES FLOODED AS TOMATO PICKING REACHES EARLY PEAK

UNUSUALLY warm weather during the early part of September brought the tomato picking season to its peak in this State resulting in acute labor shortages on the farms with larger acreages and a flood of tomatoes to the canneries which was beyond the capacity of those establishments, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture has announced. In a number of instances many tomatoes were lost as not sufficient labor was available to harvest the crop.

According to the reports tomato growers experienced one of the heaviest picking rushes in many years. Up to the time when the unusually warm weather occurred, the season for ripening was slow as a result of the cool nights. Ripening of the tomatoes was retarded to an extent which held cannery operations down to two and three days a week in some sections. In some instances tomatoes were imported from other sections to keep operations on a full time basis. With the warmer days came a flood of ripened tomatoes from all the growers which taxed many canneries beyond their capacities. In many instances they were required to operate most of several nights and in at least one instance 100 trucks were clogged at the cannery to be unloaded. Being unable to procure a sufficient number of pickers a number of farmers with large acreages lost a considerable portion of their crop.

Secretary Light stated that a greater number of licensed tomato graders are being employed this season than in any previous season to grade the heavy deliveries from the growers. The inspection records show that the quality of the tomatoes this season is considerably above average.

### Winter Crops Fair

Winter wheat, rye and barley plantings that are up are in fair condition, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. Although some of the buckwheat being harvested is short and lodged in some areas, the crop as a whole is good.

## POTATOES AFFECTED BY HOT DRY WEATHER

LATEST reports to the Department of Agriculture show that the hot dry weather in this State during the first half of August killed off many fields of potatoes, even some which were well sprayed, Secretary John H. Light has announced. Vines still green were greatly helped by rains and cooler weather the latter part of the month. Blight is present in practically all sections of the State, but is serious in only a relatively few localities. Some fields have suffered severely from tipburn and insects. Yields of early crops vary widely, usually a good set but under-size tubers, whereas the late crop is frequently a light set of larger tubers. Russets seem to have withstood the adverse weather best.

The indicated production on September 1 was placed at 23,674,000 bushels compared with 24,570,000 last year. The acreage was decreased from 189,000 last year to 178,000 acres.

Based on reported harvesting returns and conditions on that date the United States potato crop this year is estimated at 373,853,000 bushels, which is four million bushels greater than the August 1 indications. The crop is six percent smaller than the 1940 crop of 397,722,000 bushels but is one percent above the previous 10-year average production of 370,045,000 bushels.

## ANNOUNCE RULES FOR SHOWING OF CATTLE

REGULATIONS governing the health of cattle for dairy and breeding purposes which shall be entered in the Pennsylvania Farm Show next January, have been issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Under those regulations all entries in breeding classes, whether for exhibition or educational purposes, shall carry health certificates issued by the Bureau, indicating that the cattle have been identified as originating in an accredited herd, a modified accredited area or in a herd negative to a tuberculin test under official supervision.

It is required that all entries shall qualify under one of three classifications. The first is that the entries shall be identified as originating in Bang disease free accredited herds and such animals shall be negative to a blood test for Bang disease during the period between November 14, 1941 and December 31, 1941. The second classification is that entries come from herds under official supervision which have been credited with at least two repeated blood tests and negative over a period of not less than 12 months with an additional negative herd test during the period between November 15, 1941 and December 31, 1941. The third classification requires that entries come from herds under official supervision credited with two consecutive negative blood tests at not less than 90 day intervals with an additional negative herd test not less than six months from the date of the second negative test, the herd test to be applied during the period between November 15, 1941 and December 31, 1941.

The blood for the test of the entries to the Farm Show will be drawn by representatives of the Bureau of Animal Industry who shall identify all animals tested and all animals to be shown shall be negative in all dilutions.

All entries in dairy and breeding classes should be isolated from the remainder of the herd until a negative blood test is obtained 30 to 60 days following exhibition at the Farm Show.

All entries in dairy and breeding classes exhibited shall be vaccinated against hemorrhagic septicemia with agressin two or three weeks prior to shipment, or bacterin several days prior to shipment, and it is recommended that the remainder of the herd be so treated.

To be eligible for admission to the Farm Show all animals for exhibition shall carry certificates issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry, stating that they have qualified in accordance with the health requirements of the Farm Show.

### Beet Production Down

Production of beets in Pennsylvania is indicated to be six per cent less than 249,000 bushels produced in 1940. Yields are lower than a year ago attributed to dry weather early in the season and then excessive moisture during August.

## URGE MEASURES FOR REDUCING LOSSES BY PESTS NEXT SEASON

THIS season of the year when the growing period has passed or is soon to come to an end, it is the general tendency to forget about the pests and insects which have caused such heavy losses and depredations, but it is the time when much can be done toward reducing the number of insects next year and to aid any control program, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture. An important job is to promptly dispose of remnants of crops in the garden as they are sources through which many of the pests are brought to maturity the following season to begin their work of destruction.

At this period the Mexican bean beetle is found in many stages of development on bean plants. The plants should be pulled and buried as soon as the last beans are harvested. In the case of string beans great numbers of immature insects will be killed through this method and their escape to hibernating quarters prevented.

Remnants of the squash crop should be buried or raked on a pile and burned which will destroy many of the squash bugs and prevent their development to feed upon next year's crop. Cucumber beetles and several other major pests depend upon refuse for their livelihood and propagation and the destruction of the waste material will go far toward reducing crop losses the following year.

In orchards and among ornamental plantings many insects are seeking protected places at this season to spend the Winter. The codling moth worms leave the wormy apples and go into dead or cracked limbs, under rough bark and in odd litter left about the orchard to spend the Winter. Collection of as much as possible of that type of material and its destruction will result in the extermination of many of the worms and thereby reduce the number to be controlled next year.

In some ornamental plantings bag worms have escaped the poison sprays put on the plants to kill that heavy leaf feeder. If left to remain many of the bags will soon contain large numbers of eggs which will hatch next Spring to make next year's crop of worms. It is urged that shade and fruit trees be thoroughly inspected and all the bags found destroyed.

The Hessian fly is a serious grain crop pest and is controlled at this season in its attack upon wheat by planting that grain after the fly free date which can be procured for the various areas from the county agent. This date is determined by the time in the Fall when the female flies lay their eggs. The laying period is at a definite time each season.

It is also urged that clean-up measures be taken at this time for control of the corn borer in sections where that injurious insect is found. Sweet corn stover should be cut close to the ground and fed to livestock. All field corn should be cut close to the ground and that which is not put in the silo should be shredded or disposed of by burning or plowed under before May 1 next year.

## FINE TOBACCO CROP IN PA. IS INDICATED

PRESENT indications are that the late plantings of tobacco in this State, having been greatly improved by the showers the last half of August, promise to make one of the best crops in every respect ever harvested in Pennsylvania, according to the survey of the Department of Agriculture issued by Secretary John H. Light. The indicated production of Pennsylvania seedleaf is placed at 53,550,000 pounds, representing a yield per acre of 1,500 pounds compared with 1,470 pounds last year. The acreage planted this year is 35,700 compared with 33,400 in 1940. Indicated production of Pennsylvania Havana seed is 480,000 pounds compared with 492,000 pounds last year. The yield per acre is placed at 1,600 pounds compared with 1,640 pounds in 1940. In each year the acreage planted was 300 acres.

Although the August rains did not come soon enough to benefit the early tobacco, cuttings, though frequently short in leaf and weight, are fair with weather favorable for harvesting and curing.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as second-class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office at Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900.
John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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Vol. 26 Harrisburg, October 2, 1941 No. 40

### Egg Production Up. Fewer Layers In Pa. Prices Advancing.

Although Pennsylvania farm poultry flocks were two percent smaller in August compared with that month a year ago, egg production increased two million eggs, the monthly number of eggs per layer having gone from 13.3 to 13.7, according to records of the Department of Agriculture, released by Secretary John H. Light. The number of layers for the month decreased from 11,592,000 in August, 1940, to 11,394,000 but the number of eggs produced increased from 154 million to 156 million.

During the next few months a large number of pullets will enter laying flocks and if producers hold over two or three more than usual out of every 100 of their productive hens and pullets, as is now indicated, the number of layers on January will reach the increase of 10 percent over the number at the beginning of this year which is being requested by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The reported averages of 33.9 cents per dozen for eggs and the 17.8 cents per pound for live chickens was 38 percent above last year at this time for eggs and 6 percent higher for live chickens. It is also shown, however, that costs for laying mash and scratch feed were 15 percent above the averages for this time a year ago. The combined index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers on August 15 for poultry products was 130 percent of the 1910-14 average and registered a gain of 23 points over mid-July.

United States egg production in August, equivalent to 8,472,000 cases, was the largest for the month since 1929. Most of this increase was due to a record high rate of lay. The aggregate production for the eight months of this year was the largest since 1930. The rate of production per layer reached a record August high of 12.25 eggs per layer for the month. In every month this year excepting March, April and May a record high seasonal rate of lay has been reached. The aggregate production per layer in the first eight months was the largest of record and exceeded the layings of last year by five percent and the previous high in 1938 by one percent.

### Hessian Fly Survey Shows Infestations.

Results of field surveys released by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture indicate that Hessian fly infestations are low in wheat fields throughout eastern, north-central and western Pennsylvania but that there are, however, menacing populations of flies in local fields and areas in most of those regions. The range is from low to moderate in the south-central section of the state.

The infestation was found to be the heaviest in that area comprising Bedford, Blair, Fulton, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Franklin and Cumberland where the average was 11 percent but in some fields 80 percent of the wheat stems were infested. The lowest infestation was in the western counties where the average was only two percent and the maximum was eight percent of the stems examined. In eastern Pennsylvania counties the average infestation was seven percent and the maximum in any area was 20 percent. In north-central counties the average was six percent and the maximum in any field was 22 percent.

Measures for the control of Hessian fly infestations consist largely of the sowing of wheat on or after "fly-safe" dates which vary according to the area of the state. The dates are established according to the time when the flying period of the fly has ended. Sowing dates for any locality can be procured from the Agricultural Extension Agents in any county.

### Send Applications For Show Exhibits.

Applications for exhibition space at the Pennsylvania Farm Show which will be held from January 19 to 23, have been mailed to former exhibitors by the Farm Show Commission of which John H. Light, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, is chairman. It has been requested that all applications be returned to the commission on or before October 10. Floor charts of the show building were mailed with the applications which indicate changes made since the last show to better meet the requests for space.

### Good Soybean Crop.

The Pennsylvania soybean crop is reported to be mostly of good quality and weight.

### 5,800,000 Lbs. Onions. Pa. 1941 Production.

It is estimated that Pennsylvania will produce 58,000 sacks of onions this year compared with 56,000 sacks in 1940, according to the Department of Agriculture. Production in the late states, which include Pennsylvania, is placed at 10,764,000 one hundred pound sacks which is 12 percent lower than the 12,285,000 sacks harvested in 1940 and only one percent above the previous 10-year average production of 10,644,000 sacks.

Production of Danish or storage type cabbage in Pennsylvania is estimated to be 28,000 tons this year compared with 28,900 tons in 1940. A slight increase in the production of this type of cabbage is indicated for the states producing this type as a whole, the indicated yield being placed at 296,200 tons this year compared with 294,800 tons produced a year ago. This is two percent above the 1930-39 average of 290,600 tons.

### Beetle Quarantine Relinquished Early.

Removal by the Department of Agriculture of the restrictions on the movement of fruits and vegetables under the Japanese beetle quarantine regulations, took place this year considerably in advance of the date in past seasons as the result of surveys which showed that adults of the beetle have decreased to a point where it does not seem necessary to continue fruit and vegetable inspection and certification requirement during the remainder of the season, Secretary John H. Light has announced. Restrictions were removed at the same time on interstate shipments by the United States Department of Agriculture. Restrictions on cut flowers, however, remain in force through October 15.

Under quarantine regulations certificates showing freedom from the beetle are required until October 16 on shipments of fruits and vegetables of any kind from the area of heavy beetle flight in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The inspection is necessary only during the period when the beetles are in active flight. There is no risk that fruits and vegetables will carry the beetle after the active beetle period which is now apparently over throughout the regulated areas. There is still danger, however, that the beetles may be transported in cut flowers upon which the restrictions are being continued.

Restrictions on the movement of nursery, ornamental and green house stock and all other plants except cut flowers, soil free aquatic plants and portions of plants without roots and free from soil, are in force throughout the year and are not affected by the recent order.

### Increase Seen In Penna. Apple Crop.

Latest indications are that the Pennsylvania apple crop will yield 9,591,000 bushels compared with 9,100,000 bushels last year which is in line with increased production expected throughout the commercial apple areas of the country, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The latest survey showed the crop to be 64 percent of normal compared with 61 percent at the comparable time last year. The apples in this State are generally clean and well colored and have attained fair size despite the dry weather which prevailed in important producing areas.

Prospective production of apples in the commercial areas of the country is about 12 percent greater than the 1940 crop and about two percent above the previous six-year average. The indicated crop in commercial areas is 128,322,000 bushels compared with the six-year average of 125,310,000 bushels and the 1940 production of 114,391,000 bushels.

### Big Cabbage Yields Expected In Penna.

Recent rains in the Waterford, Erie County, area have greatly improved the Danish cabbage prospects, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The crop is said to be exceptionally clean, heads are solid and mostly of medium size. Quality is excellent. The best crop in five years is the prospects in the Indiana County section as rains at the proper time there have helped growth and increased the size and weight of the crop. The crop in all other sections, especially those which received rainfall during the past month, have been making good progress and better than average yields are indicated.

### Feed Grains Supply In Pa. Is Slightly Larger Than In '40.

Farmers on thousands of farms in Pennsylvania are now engaged in filling their silos which means the approach to the end of the 1941 harvest of the major feed crops and will be the final determination of the amount of feed for cattle available during the Winter months.

Surveys by the Department of Agriculture issued by Secretary John H. Light show that the crop of corn silage now being harvested is of excellent condition generally, it having been greatly improved by the warmer weather and rains just previous to harvesting. The corn crop is estimated at 54,642,000 bushels which is two percent above last year's production and approximately 20 percent of this amount is used for silage.

The most important single item for cattle feeding is the hay supply which is now estimated to be six percent below that which was available for feeding last year. The poor production of the first crop was largely overcome by the excellent condition of the second cutting. As a result of last year's bumper crop the carry-over this year was 17 percent above the 10-year average, amounting to 455,000 tons. This amount added to the 2,834,000 tons of the 1941 harvest gives a total of 3,289,000 tons available for feeding until next Summer. Although six percent less than the amount available last year it is only one percent below the 10-year average.

However, as the result of poor pastures early in the season due to dry weather, some farmers were required to feed from the Winter hay supply. During the past few weeks pastures have been greatly improved and according to the last estimates were providing 63.8 percent of the total amount of feed for cows, which is only slightly less for this time of year than the 10-year average.

In the effort to maintain milk production which is considerably above past records, farmers have been feeding grain rather heavily during the Summer months. Latest reports show that 10 percent more grain is being fed than was fed last year which will diminish the Winter supply available in view of the fact that production of all feed grains this year is only one percent above that of 1940.

Although the hay and grain situation compares favorably with previous years, latest reports showed an increase of about two percent in the number of cows on the farms in this State and still a greater increase may result if more cows are held over than in former years as is now indicated because of the Federal Government requests for increased production of dairy products. Increases are also shown in other livestock including poultry and beef cattle which will cause still greater drains on the available feed supplies. The production of feed grains and proteins throughout the country compares favorably with that of last year excepting cotton seed meal in which a considerable decrease is reported as a result of the reduced cotton crop.

### Penna. Will Produce Less Celery In '41.

According to the latest estimates of the Department of Agriculture the production of celery this year in Pennsylvania will be 231,000 ninety pound crates compared with 251,000 crates last year. Throughout the eastern states production is considerably lower than last year due to decreased acreage and lower yield prospects in some instances. Production in the late groups of states comprising Colorado, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania is indicated to be 3,607,000 crates which is a decrease of six percent from the 3,833,000 crates produced in 1940 but is 11 percent above the 1930-39 average of 3,258,000 crates.

The 1941 production of carrots for Pennsylvania was estimated to be 260,000 bushels compared with 247,000 bushels last year. Production in the late states in which Pennsylvania is included is indicated to be 3,483,000 bushels which is an increase of more than seven percent over the 3,235,000 bushels in 1940 and 23 percent above the previous 10-year average of 2,827,000 bushels.

The acreage for harvest in this group of states is eight percent higher than the acreage a year ago but the 1941 prospective yields are indicated to be slightly lower than last year. Compared with the 1930-39 average acreage, plantings this year show an increase of 25 percent. Acreage yields are one-half percent below.

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## APIARY INSPECTIONS IN 24 COUNTIES ARE MADE DURING SEASON

UNDER the plan of apiary inspection inaugurated by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, approximately two-thirds of the apiaries in this State have been inspected in two inspection years. During the season just closed 24 counties in the central area of the State were completely inspected. In that area are located about one-third of the commercial bee population. Last year the inspection covered 18 counties in the Western section of the State also covering about one-third of the number of hives. In addition to the regular inspection work this season, considerable follow-up work was also done in various sections of the area inspected last year. The counties of Lehigh and Montgomery and part of Columbia, which were not in this year's inspection area, were also inspected, the commissioners of those counties having appropriated funds for that work. The program for next year will cover the eastern counties of the State which will bring complete State-wide inspection in a period of three years.

During the season just ended 8,108 apiaries consisting of 54,073 colonies were inspected compared with 8,923 apiaries of 62,837 colonies last year. The amount of increase this year was 6.7 percent compared with eight percent last year and 942 colonies were burned because of being diseased or housed in illegal hives, compared with 3,915 burned last year. This work is done in cooperation with the beekeeper, it being realized that these measures are necessary for successful apiary operation. It is estimated that one million dollars is invested in the bee industry in this State and the value of the honey last year was placed at about 500,000. This figure is expected to be considerably increased this year as a result of the unusually heavy production due to favorable weather conditions.

In the years previous to the inauguration of the present inspection plan by Secretary Light under which a third of the State will undergo complete inspection each year, apiary inspection was carried in what is now looked upon as a hit and miss method resulting in some areas not having been inspected over periods of years and more years. The yearly number of counties inspected averaged about nine and they were located in various sections of the State. Under the present plan the State is divided into three areas, Western, Central and Eastern and since the adoption of the program it has been adhered to, inspections having been completed in the areas designated.

The counties covered this year are McKean, Potter, Tioga, Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming, Centre, Clearfield, Union, Snyder, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Blair, Bedford, Cambria and Somerset.

## DRY WEATHER CUTS PA. VEGETABLE CROPS

IT is estimated that the dry weather which has prevailed more particularly in the Southeastern section of the State has caused a reduction of about one-fourth in the crops of spinach and celery below last year's production, according to the Department of Agriculture. The broccoli crop is also short. The dry weather prevailed during the planting season preventing the vegetables from making a good growing start and continued through much of the growing period, reducing the size of the plants. Growth was practically at a standstill some time previous to the normal harvesting period. Quality, however, is not affected.

In some areas the drought became serious during the latter part of September, streams having virtually dried, wells become dry and the flow from springs was stopped in some sections and greatly reduced in other areas.

## ERIE CO. SUFFERS HEAVY FRUIT LOSSES

HEAVY fruit losses are reported in Erie County as a result of the high winds which swept in from the Gulf of Mexico the latter part of September. Estimates reaching the Department of Agriculture place the losses at approximately 50 percent of the unpicked Fall apples and about 30 percent of the late varieties. Losses were mainly from fruit blown to the ground.

## WILL ASK CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FOR GYPSY MOTH CONTROL

THE necessity for greater cooperation on the part of the Federal Government in the efforts to control the gypsy moth in the New England states and for the eradication of the pest in the infested area in Pennsylvania will be carried to Congress as a result of a conference held last week in the moth section of this State. The conference was sponsored by Secretary John H. Light of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the New York State Department of Agriculture and was attended by representatives of several of the infested states, of the Federal Department of Agriculture and of the Federal Budget office.

For the past several years the cooperation of the Federal Government with the states has consisted of the supplying relief and WPA labor. It is insisted that if control and eradication measures shall be effective the effort must be greatly extended and more permanent arrangements must be made since it requires about 18 months to properly instruct persons to do scouting work.

All of the New England states are infested with the moth, but the most severe infestation is in Massachusetts and that state spends annually one million dollars in the control work. It is agreed that the efforts in those states must center in the control of the pest since it has become too widespread to hope for its eradication.

Eighteen years ago it was determined that the only effective measure to prevent the spread into other states was the establishment of a barrier zone which was done. That zone extends the entire length of New York State from North to South and is from 20 to 40 miles wide. The effort has been to center operations in that area to keep it clean of the moth but a few years ago that area was invaded by the pest and the infestation has increased now to a point where it is estimated that three million dollars will be required to bring it back to a moth-free barrier. The larger infestation of the section is said to coincide with the disastrous cyclone which struck the New England states a few years ago giving rise to the suggestion that the moth in the first caterpillar stage might have been blown into the barrier section.

The danger of the break through from the barrier zone is recognized by all entomologists and authorities. Since the spread of the moth is exceedingly rapid it is foreseen that should the barrier be broken down there would be no limits to the area throughout the country which might fall prey to the pest, which feeds upon the leaves of trees.

The pest was first found in this State in 1932. The heavily infested area has been confined to Luzerne and Lackawanna counties and three townships in Monroe County and two townships in Carbon County. That entire area comprises 236 square miles. There is a slightly infested area surrounding that section which comprises 744 square miles and beyond that is an area designated by the State Department of Agriculture, of 1,595 square miles which is known as the safety zone and in which scouting is done each year to make sure that the moth has not broken through from the infested area. About 800 men are required in the work in this State during the spraying season and 300 men are necessary throughout the year to engage in scouting work to accomplish what has largely resulted only in the control of the pest although a few sections have been made moth free. Based upon the experience of New Jersey, Secretary Light feels that it is definitely established that the moth can be eradicated from this State and it is his desire that efforts be intensified to bring this about. Since the Federal Government officials agree with the states that the problem is a national one as the spread of the moth could bring widespread disaster throughout the country, plans are being formulated to bring before Congress the necessity for appropriations for carrying on the work on the required scale.

An infestation was found in New Jersey some time after 1920 which comprised an area of 400 square miles. Through intensive efforts with the cooperation of the Federal Government the moth was eradicated in 1932 which was the same year in which it was found in this State. Scouting work continues in New Jersey but a small infestation has been found in only one year since the eradication.

## PRODUCTION UP FOR PENNA. DAIRY HERDS FEEDING MORE GRAIN

THAT farmers in Pennsylvania are managing their dairy herds on a higher plane of efficiency is indicated by the higher production records received by the Department of Agriculture, according to Secretary John H. Light, who stated that this tendency is most encouraging and a prime necessity if increasing costs are to be met.

Milk production per cow in herds of this State on September 1 averaged 17.6 pounds, the highest for that date since 1938 and approximately seven percent above the 1930-39 September average. This increased production is accounted for largely by the fact that farmers were feeding heavier on that date, reports showing that an average of 5.3 pounds of grain and concentrates were fed per cow in the herd. This was the highest September rate reported in the 10 years of record and was nearly equal to the usual feeding rate prevailing in the early Winter months. Although milk prices have been advancing, a part of the increase is taken by the rising price of feed, reports from dealers indicating that average prices of 20 percent mixed dairy feed were about $2 a ton higher in August than they were in June and July and nearly $6 a ton above August last year.

The expected average price received in August by farmers of this State for milk was $2.40 a hundred pounds, which was 15 cents above July and 40 cents higher than August, 1940, and the highest for the month since 1929. Average prices received by farmers for milk cows in mid-August were also the highest since 1929 and at $88 per head exceeded August 15 last year by 17 percent.

Milk production continues high for the country as a whole. With more cows, as well as a higher milk production per cow, daily milk production about September 1 was probably five percent higher than at that time last year. August milk production was nearly six percent higher than in the same month a year earlier, estimated at 10.4 billion pounds on farms in the United States, which is an all-time record for that month.

According to indications milk production is likely to continue heavy this Fall and through the Winter feeding period. The present high rate of production is attributed primarily to prices, which it is said should continue favorable for liberal feeding in most areas.

Feed prices generally are reported to have recently increased rapidly. Some local quotations on oil meals have jumped $5 per ton over last month. Wholesale prices of principal commercial feeds on September 9 were 18 percent higher than on August 5 and 40 percent greater than in June. If feed prices continue at present or higher levels they would tend to restrict the feeding of milk cows in areas where dairymen depend on purchased feeds.

## SCHEDULE 5 EVENTS IN SHOW BUILDING

FIVE Fall events will be held in the Pennsylvania Farm Show Building, the first of which is the sixth annual Poultry Industries Exposition being held from October 7 to 10 by the Northeastern Poultry Producers' Council which covers Pennsylvania and 12 other Northeastern states from Maine to West Virginia. It will be the first time the exposition will have been held in this State.

On October 22 the Pennsylvania Federation of Holstein-Freisian Clubs will conduct their annual cattle sale and on October 29, 30, 31 and November 1 the Harrisburg Horse Show will be held. During the afternoon of October 31 there will also be held in the small arena a clinic and demonstration of veterinarian and poultry diseases by the Pennsylvania Veterinarian Medical Association, which will mark the conclusion of a two-day convention in Harrisburg of that association. The demonstrations on diseases of poultry will be given by Dr. Palace Seitz of the laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

The annual sale of harness horses will be conducted at the Farm Show Building November 5, 6, 7 and 8 by the Standard Bred Horse Sales Company.

Following these activities the job of planning the building for the great Pennsylvania Farm Show in January will get under way in full swing.

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## INCREASE REPORTED IN TURKEYS RAISED ON PA. FARMS IN '41

It is estimated that 997,000 turkeys were raised this year in Pennsylvania which is an increase of eight percent above last year, according to reports issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for turkeys during the first eight months of this year averaged about two cents a pound above prices for the comparable period in 1940.

The number of turkeys raised for the country at large this year is expected to be about the same as last year. The estimate is 33,553,000 birds which allows for the exceptional storm losses last November which reduced the market supply by more than a million turkeys.

Marketings this year for the country as a whole are expected to be slightly earlier than in 1940, with 54 percent of the crop intended to move in November or earlier, compared with 51 percent last year. Growers show 10.6 percent of intended marketings for October or earlier instead of 8.8 percent marketed last year, and 43.4 percent for November compared with 42.1 percent last year. Christmas and New Year's markets are expected to receive 35.1 percent compared with 36.9 percent last year, and after-holiday-markets 10.9 percent, compared with 12.2 percent last season. The actual proportions that will move in successive months will depend to a considerable extent, however, on later developments. A favorable early price for turkeys might bring out larger proportions for the Thanksgiving market, while a disappointing price level at that season might lead to holding of birds for heavier weights and later sale. An increased proportion of birds is expected to be held over this Winter for breeders next season. The sharp reduction in numbers of breeders held over last winter led to a shortage and high prices for hatching eggs this season, and to the necessity for saving a larger proportion of the eggs laid and extending the length of the hatching season. Even by these expedients, the number of turkey poults available fell short of the demand.

The weight of turkeys continues to increase due to the growing popularity of the broad-breasted type. The average live weight of turkeys at time of marketing this year is expected to be about a fourth of a pound heavier than last year, 12.2 pounds for hens and 18.6 pounds for toms, compared with 12 pounds for hens and 18 pounds for toms last season.

The supply of turkeys for consumption this year will be reduced by the smaller holdings of turkeys in storage which on September 1 totaled 12.9 million pounds, about 8 million pounds below last year at the same date. Nearly a third of the turkeys in cold storage are held in the Middle Atlantic States and the 4,193,000 pounds September 1 this year compares with 7,156,000 on September 1 last year.

## 6½ TONS ALUMINUM COLLECTED BY YORK FARMERS' COMMITTEE

COLLECTION of approximately six and one-half tons of scrap aluminum in the recent defense campaign is the outstanding accomplishment of the York County Agricultural Advisory Defense Committee, according to a detailed report submitted to Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light, who is chairman of the State Agricultural Advisory Defense Council. Under the direction of C. B. Musser, chairman of the county committee, the entire rural area of the county was organized with 34 section chairmen and a total of 285 persons on the section committees. A total of 9,192 visits were made by the committee members in the collection of the aluminum ware.

Besides Mr. Musser the members of the county committee who assisted in the organization for the campaign are Floyd Herzel, secretary-treasurer; Miss Hazel Myers, Mrs. H. C. Crone, H. C. McPherson, George A. Goodling, Jonas Weaver, H. M. Grove, J. S. Brant and J. Spahr.

### Good Yield of Hay Seeds

In spite of the dry weather clover and timothy for seed are reported to the Department of Agriculture to be showing fairly good yields. Pastures, however, have deteriorated and only one in 10 is rated good.

## MARKET INCREASES FOR APPLE PRODUCTS

GREAT increases in the manufacture of apple products in Pennsylvania are reported by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. According to a recent survey by agents of the Department approximately two and one-half million bushels of apples grown in this State were used last year by Pennsylvania canning factories, apple juice plants and cider mills, which was greatly in excess of any previous year. This figure is expected to be considerably increased during the present apple harvesting season.

The great growth of the manufacture of apple products in Pennsylvania is attributed to the large production in this State of excellent quality fruit of varieties particularly adapted to canning and processing, an increasing demand for Pennsylvania canned apple products and State supervised grading of all cannery apples which assures premium prices for the grower for high quality fruit and which gives the manufacturer quality product prices. Under the State grading and inspection system the consumer is also assured of receiving quality products which in turn creates greater demand.

This State now occupies a leading position among all the apple growing states in both value and quality of processed and canned apples.

## STOCKS IN STORAGE ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

COLD storage reports received by the Department of Agriculture show that holdings of all varieties of frozen fruits on hand September 1, totaling 211,047,000 pounds, exceeded those of a year previously by 44,644,000 pounds and the previous five-year average by 76,981,000 pounds. Stocks of frozen vegetables totaled 83,480,000 pounds which exceeded September 1, 1940, holdings by 5,102,000 pounds.

American cheese holdings were 151,737,000 pounds, the greatest reported at any time on record, exceeding September 1, 1940 stocks by 25,422,000 pounds. Total stocks of all varieties of cheese were 184,624,000 pounds compared with 149,188,000 pounds a year earlier. Pennsylvania holdings of American cheese were placed at 4,126,000 pounds.

Creamery butter stocks totaled 200,539,000 pounds compared with 134,266,000 pounds on September 1, 1940. Holdings in this State amounted to 9,544,000 pounds. egg stocks amounted to 6,134,000 cases of shell and 193,972,000 pounds of frozen. The out-of-storage movement of shell eggs during August was 507,000 cases compared with 543,000 cases during that month a year ago. Frozen egg stocks during August were 48,319,000 pounds greater than on September 1, 1940, and 58,878,000 pounds above average. Holdings in Pennsylvania totaled 279,000 cases of eggs and 6,692,000 pounds of frozen eggs.

Frozen poultry stocks on September 1 totaled 85,276,000 pounds, or an increase of 4,070,000 pounds during the month of August and 3,098,000 pounds greater than a year earlier and 19,434,000 pounds above average for that date. Stocks in this State totaled 3,673,000 pounds.

Stocks of all frozen and cured meats totaled 625,881,000 pounds, showing a net reduction of 135,403,000 pounds during August. Frozen and cured beef stocks, totaling 67,411,000 pounds, increased 1,769,000 pounds from a month earlier while these stocks usually decline during August. Beef holdings were 31,814,000 pounds greater than on September 1 last year and were 25,078,000 pounds above the previous five-year average. Frozen and cured pork stocks fell sharply during August but were considerably larger than on September 1 a year ago. Stocks were reported to be 482,992,000 pounds compared with 618,866,000 pounds a month earlier, 417,564,000 on September 1 last year and 380,343,000 pounds for the previous five-year average.

## 1105 BIRDS ENTERED IN EGG LAYING TEST

THE first week of the eleventh Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test showed production of 47.32 percent with a pen of Kauder's Pedigreed Leghorns leading with 72 eggs. A total of 1,105 birds are entered. The average production per bird was 3.31 eggs and the average egg weight was 21.8 ounces per dozen.

## PENNA. LEGHORN PEN WINS FIRST PLACE IN EGG LAYING CONTEST

A PEN of Single Comb White Leghorns entered by a Pennsylvania breeder won the 10th annual Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test which has just been brought to a close, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light has announced. A number of previous records were broken during the year in which the 1,027 birds entered had an average production of 206.7 eggs per bird which exceeded last year's high production record by nearly six eggs.

The winning pen is owned by Burr's Poultry Farm of Tunkhannock, Pa., having registered a total production of 3,585 eggs and 3,687.90 points. The winning pen last year was one of Barred Plymouth Rocks which produced a total of 3,557 eggs. The second place this year was also captured by a pen of Single Comb White Leghorns which is owned by J. A. Hanson of Corvallis, Oregon. The total production was 3,459 eggs and 3,643.55 points were scored. Third place went to a pen of Barred Plymouth Rocks owned by David T. Cohen of Guilford, Connecticut, which produced 3,359 eggs and scored 3,583.15 points.

Among the first 20 ranking pens eight were owned by Pennsylvania breeders while the remaining pens were entered by owners from Oregon, Connecticut, Massachusetts, California, New York, Indiana, and Rhode Island.

The total production in the test was 212,276 eggs or an average production of 57.90 percent compared with the high rate of lay of more than 56 percent last year. The average egg weight during the test was 24.6 ounces per dozen which is six-tenths of an ounce better than the weight of standard size eggs.

The high individual hen was a Single Comb White Leghorn owned by the Foreman Poultry Farm of Lowell, Michigan, which is credited with a production of 334 eggs for the duration of the test which is 14 eggs above the production of the high bird in last year's test. The winning bird is credited with 355.5 points. A total of 33 other birds won the distinction of laying more than 300 eggs and scoring more than 300 points during the test compared with 30 birds which attained that distinction last year.

Only five of the 79 pullet pens entered produced less than 2,000 eggs, the remaining pens having produced from that number up to the winning figure of 3,585 eggs. The per bird production for the winning pen was 276 eggs, which is considered a high rate in view of the fact that it is 75 eggs per bird above the average for the entire test.

In the second year class a Rhode Island Red hen owned by E. B. Parmenter of Franklin, Mass., holds first place with a production of 544 eggs and a score of 591.15 points in 723 days which is a production of 75.2 percent. A Single Comb White Leghorn owned by J. A. Hanson, Corvallis, Oregon, holds first place in the third year class with a production of 762 eggs and a score of 828.05 points in 1,088 days which is a production of 70 percent. In the fourth year class a Single Comb White Leghorn owned by the Fuzzydale Farms, Elverson, Pa., holds first place with a production of 876 eggs and a score of 940.90 points in 1,453 days which is a production of 60.3 percent.

The 1941-1942 test opened October 1 with all pens having been reserved several weeks in advance of the opening date. Twenty-five applicants were not able to enter because of the lack of space. The number of pens in all classes is 99, the same as last year. There are 13 birds in each pen.

## 19,624 MORE DOGS LICENSED THIS YEAR

DURING the first seven months of this year 19,624 more dogs were licensed in this State than during the same period in 1940, according to the report of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced. The total number of licensed dogs is given as 557,870. During that same period there was, however, also an increase of $2,414 in claims paid by the State to owners of livestock and poultry for loss and damage caused by dogs. The total paid in claims for the seven-month period is $13,332.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## PA. FARMERS' INCOME INCREASES IN JULY COSTS ALSO HIGHER

PENNSYLVANIA farmers received $35,697,000 more in cash income from farm marketings in July this year than they received in that month in 1940, according to compiled reports released by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The total for July this year is placed at $27,687,000 compared with $21,990,000 in July, 1940.

Of this total $6,847,000 was received as income from crops compared with $5,387,000 in July last year or an increase of $1,460,000, and income from livestock and livestock products accounted for $20,840,000 compared with $16,603,000 in July last year, or an increase of $4,237,000.

For the first seven months of this year the increase in total farm cash income over the comparable period last year is placed at $21,158,000, the total figure for the period in 1941 being $171,267,000 compared with $150,109,000 for that period in 1940. Of the 1941 total, $41,543,000 is represented by cash income from crops and $129,724,000 was received from livestock and livestock products.

Although the total increase represents a rise of 26 percent, costs of production of the things the farmer must buy have also been showing consistent increases. In July the Pennsylvania farmer's purchasing power was 102 points, taken from the base of 100 representing the value of the dollar during the 1910 to 1914 period, which was an increase of four points above the July, 1940, figure. The cost of things the farmer buys, however increased from 120 to 127 during that period.

Figures for the country at large showed July 15 that the expense of producing agricultural products and the cost of living for the farmer had increased five percent, but it is believed this figure was higher for this State. Feed for farm stock had shown an increase of nine percent and labor costs were up 24 percent.

## TEST 45,293 CATTLE FOR BANG'S DISEASE

A TOTAL of 2,976 herds comprising 45,293 cattle were tested for Bang disease under the various plans during September by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Infection was found in 1,725 animals in 632 herds or in 3.6 percent of the cattle and 21.2 percent of the herds.

On October 1 a total of 594,006 cattle in 69,252 herds were under supervision of the Bureau, having been previously tested. Of that number 6,175 herds comprising 125,219 cattle are certified as free from the disease, there having been no reactors after at least two consecutive tests given over a period of one year.

During the month of September the State paid a total of $40,843.07 and the Federal Government paid a total of $57,065 in indemnities for disease condemned cattle.

Up to the present time there are 71 herds in this State in which calfhood vaccination against Bang disease is being practiced under plans instituted last March by the Department of Agriculture. During September 112 calves in 24 herds were vaccinated bringing the total number of calves vaccinated since the inauguration of the plan to 816. This treatment may be administered only under permits issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

## LACK OF RAIN CUTS SPINACH PRODUCTION

THE Fall spinach crop in the Bucks-Philadelphia area has been materially reduced by the dry and hot weather of September, reports of the Department of Agriculture indicate. Many fields which were not watered will not produce the yield of seed. Irrigated fields are generally good. In Delaware county the crop is poor. Marketings of the spinach crop will probably be at peak by mid-October and good volume through November. Demand for canning and quick-freeze is strong and is expected to support prices.

## 138,927 SPECIMENS EXAMINED IN MONTH

A TOTAL of 138,927 specimens of various kinds were examined during the month of September at the laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Leading the list were specimens of chickens which numbered 91,070, most of the examinations having been made for pullorum disease. Cattle ranked second with 47,677 specimens, most of which were examined for Bang disease.

Included in the examinations were the brains of 19 animals which were rabies suspects. It was found that eight of the number had suffered from the disease. It was also reported that 27 persons and 68 animals were bitten or exposed to the rabid dogs. Cases were reported in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Delaware, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.

## COTTON MOTHS SWARM TO NORTHERN CITIES

MANY inquiries are being received by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture relating to the great swarms of small brown moths which are appearing in various cities. According to that bureau it is what is commonly called the Cotton moth which annually during the Fall migrates in great numbers to the North, having been found as far from its natural habitat as the borders of Canada. The reason for the migration is not known.

During this season the moth is seen in numbers on lighted store windows and about street lights being attracted by bright lights. It is pale brown in color with a small spot in the center of each fore wing and having a wing spread of about one and one-third inches. During their flights the moths cause some damage to ripening fruits, mainly peaches and grapes and also to some vegetables by breaking the skin and sucking the juices.

The caterpillar of these moths are known as "Cotton leaf worms," and are more or less destructive every year in the cotton belt of the south, where they feed entirely on cotton, eating the foliage and also attacking the blossoms and squares.

When the caterpillars are fully grown, they spin frail silken cocoons between one or two leaves which they tie together with silken threads. The moths emerge from these cocoons after the usual metamorphosis. There are several generations each year.

Natives of the tropical regions, the moths enter the United States from Central and South America each year, but they all succumb finally to the cold weather of the North.

## MORE CLOVER SEED PRODUCED THIS YEAR

ALTHOUGH weather conditions were not the most favorable for heavy hay production this year in Pennsylvania, the estimated production of red clover seed for 1941 in this State is placed at 34,000 bushels compared with 31,000 bushels last year, according to the Department of Agriculture. The yield per acre is estimated to be one bushel which is the same as in 1940.

Production of red clover seed in the United States is expected to be about 22 percent below that of last year but 42 percent above the previous 10-year average. Decline in production from last year is attributed almost entirely to a reduction in acreage, the yield for the two years being practically the same. Acreage for harvest this year is estimated at 1,569,000 acres compared with 1,969,600 acres last year.

Growers indicate they intend to sell 53 percent of their 1941 crop to dealers and 18 percent to other farmers, leaving 29 percent for sowing on their own farms. Prices offered to growers about September 20 for the United States were $12.55 per 100 pounds or $7.53 per bushel for clean seed, compared with $9.40 per hundred pounds or $5.64 per bushel last year and the previous 10-year average of $15.80 per 100 pounds or $9.48 per bushel.

Carry-over of clean seed on farms is indicated at approximately 460,000 bushels compared with 327,000 bushels last year.

### 5804 Swine Treated

Under the supervision of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture 5,804 swine on 128 premises were vaccinated against hog cholera during the month of September.

## INSPECTION SERVICE COVERING GRAINS BREAKS ALL RECORDS

SEED wheat and Winter barley inspection and certification reports of the Bureau of Plant Industry have just been announced by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, in which it is shown that this service broke all previous records since the work was started in 1936.

A total of 3,030.15 acres of wheat was inspected for certification this year, compared with 2,753.8 acres last year which was the high record at that time. Of that acreage, 2,205 acres were certified and 825.15 acres, or 27.23 percent of the total acreage entered, were rejected. The report shows that the seed wheat crop was of particularly high quality, although yields were not as heavy as would have been the case under more favorable growing conditions than those which generally prevailed. Germination and weight are said to have registered unusually good.

Far in the lead among the varieties inspected and certified is the Leaps Prolific which was planted on 1,335 acres of the total certified acreage. The Nittany variety was second with 546 acres.

The growth of the inspection and certification service is indicated by a comparison of figures in which it is shown that in 1937 only 535.5 acres were entered for certification.

There were 588.65 acres of Winter barley entered for inspection for seed certification, compared with 547.25 acres entered last year. Of that total 387.65 acres were certified and 201 acres were rejected. As in the case of wheat, the acreage entered this year was the largest since the service was inaugurated.

Rejections were made largely because of smut, scab and varietal mixtures, however these conditions did not prevail as extensively as last year. Of the fields entered in 1940, 57 percent were rejected while this year the rejections accounted for only 34.2 percent.

The Tennessee Winter variety accounted for 256.5 of the acres certified, the Beardless variety being second with 74 acres.

## T B CATTLE IN PENNA. DECREASING RAPIDLY

THAT tuberculosis is becoming almost eliminated from the cattle in this State is indicated by the reports of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture in which it is shown that during the month of September a total of 45,279 cattle were given tuberculin tests and in that number only 189 cattle were infected with the disease. This trend has existed since the State was declared a modified accredited area in 1936. The tests made during the entire year of 1940 showed the number of cattle affected at only one-third of one percent of the total number tested. All the cattle in the State are subject to tests every three years, one-third of the cattle being tested annually.

During September tuberculin tests were also made on 43 goats one of which had the disease.

For the reactors which were required to be disposed of, the State paid a total of $9,645 and the Federal Government paid $6,517 in indemnities.

During the month 4,460 cattle were imported into Pennsylvania and 458 cattle were exported.

## ERIE AREA CABBAGE HAS GOOD PROSPECTS

THE Danish cabbage harvest is now under way in all except the southeastern areas, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. Marketings are expected to approach peak by the latter part of October. The crop in the Waterford or Erie Co. area is fine with quality very good. Harvest is now in full swing. Most fields look good although some cracking has been reported and heads tend to run mostly from small to medium. In the Columbia-Luzerne-Schuylkill area much of the crop has already been marketed. Yields were very good. In other sections of the State cabbage crops look good but more moisture is needed for faster growth. In the Southeast late cabbage fields generally have poor stands, few plants have headed and growth has been slow, with some fields too far gone for rain to help. The irrigated fields look better and fair yields are expected.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## PRODUCTION OF MILK CONTINUES TO SHOW HEAVY INCREASES

COWS on farms in Pennsylvania seem to be heeding the request for more dairy products and are in defense production strides according to the Federal-State crop reports for September released by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. Milk production per cow in this State averaged 17.3 pounds on October 1st which was only slightly below the record high production per cow of 17.5 pounds established on that date a year ago in spite of the fact that pastures declined rapidly due to the extreme hot weather and the lack of adequate moisture during the month. Production was maintained by supplementary grain feeding dairymen reporting that on October 1st only 50.6 per cent of the feed for dairy cattle was obtained from pastures compared with 59 per cent in 1940.

Total milk production in September for the United States is estimated at 9.3 billion pounds which is one billion pounds above the 1935-39 average for that month and indicates a nine month total, January 1st to October 1st about nine billion pounds above the average for the period.

Reports show that on the farms of the country there has been a stepping up of production helped by near-record supplies of grain and hay, record crop yields per acre and ample rainfall over large areas in the West. It is suggested, however, that this condition may be temporary in view of the heavy movement of labor away from the farm into the defense industries where high wages are being paid.

Production of manufactured dairy products for the country as a whole in September was about 10 per cent above production in that month last year. The increase in butter was only two or three per cent but American cheese production increased 22 per cent. Output of evaporated milk probably increased substantially over last year since in August there was a 27 per cent increase.

Prices of feeds dropped five per cent from the high quotations of a month earlier but they still average 45 per cent higher than a year ago in spite of the fact that corn is only about 10 per cent higher and oats 30 per cent higher. The relatively low prices of feed grains compared with commercial feeds and the relatively high prices of cheese and evaporated milk compared with milk for city distribution now tend to favor the dairymen in the North Central states compared with those of the Northeast, according to the report.

## GRAPE CROP YIELDS MEETING ESTIMATES

IN spite of conditions which adversely affected the grape crop in the Erie area of this State this year, the indicated production is still placed at 16,500 tons as was previously forecast according to the Federal-State Crop Report issued by the Department of Agriculture. Frosts in April, hail in July and August and heavy rain on September 25th combined to make a short crop, which, however, has suffered little damage from bugs and moth. The harvest season will be shorter than usual. The quality of grapes is generally high and prices prevailing are considerably above last year. The Pennsylvania production last year was 23,000 tons.

Indicated production in the United States totals 2,664,490 tons compared with 2,543,910 tons in 1940 and the previous 10-year average of 2,264,062 tons.

## MEAT LAW VIOLATION BRINGS HEAVY FINES

CHARGED with violation of the meat hygiene act, a farmer and a butcher in the Eastern part of the State were recently found guilty and fined a total of $150 and costs. The action was brought by an agent and investigator of the Department of Agriculture.

It was charged that the animal was diseased and in a dying condition when it was slaughtered by the farmer and sold to the butcher. The carcass was discovered in the cooler at the butcher shop.

The Department of Agriculture is constantly warning persons against slaughtering unhealthy animals and attempting to offer the meat for sale as such acts will be vigorously prosecuted.

## PENNA. TOBACCO CROP BEST EVER PRODUCED

THE Pennsylvania tobacco crop is practically all harvested and under almost ideal weather conditions for that purpose, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. Local showers, while generally light, were sufficient to be quite beneficial to the late planted tobacco, and the crop as a whole is exceptionally clean and one of the finest in every respect ever produced in the State. Due to dry, warm weather, the crop is curing very rapidly, so fast in some instances that quality may be impaired, and some moisture would be helpful in slowing down the process. Yields of Pennsylvania seedleaf is placed at 51,765,000 pounds from 35,700 acres. Production of Pennsylvania Havana seed is placed at 480,000 pounds from 300 acres.

## CHOLERA IS CAUSE OF HEAVY LOSS IN POULTRY INDUSTRY

ONE of the most widespread and serious loss-producing diseases of poultry is fowl cholera. This disease was recognized many years ago and was one of the first diseases of chickens to be studied.

The early investigations in connection with fowl cholera played a very important part in forming the fundamental knowledge pertaining to many of the diseases of man and animals.

Fowl cholera is a highly infectious disease affecting all domestic and many of the wild species of fowls. There is no relationship between fowl cholera and hog cholera and the popular designation "cholera" is frequently used incorrectly to indicate any highly destructive disease of poultry.

Although outbreaks of fowl cholera may occur in any season, it is most frequently encountered during the Fall and early Winter months. It usually affects adults, seldom young chickens. In addition to chickens the disease is highly infectious for ducks, geese and turkeys.

The disease may occur in either an acute or chronic form and the symptoms vary depending on the type of infection. In acute outbreaks, birds in production and in good physical condition die suddenly with no apparent illness. The first indication is the finding of birds dead on the floor, roost or in the nest without having shown evidence of previous illness. As the disease progresses, the losses may become less acute and sick birds are noticed which appear dull and sleepy with ruffled feathers. The birds eat little but water consumption is increased. A greenish or yellowish diarrhea is frequently observed. In this form of the disease the fowl cholera germs are present in the blood and throughout the system of the bird. A definite diagnosis is dependent upon the isolation and identification of the germ by means of laboratory procedures.

In the chronic form of the disease, the fowl cholera germ is very often localized in the wattles, eyes and upper respiratory tract especially the nasal passages and sinuses. A sticky, ill-smelling discharge from the nostrils and accumulations of cheesy materials in the eyes and sinuses are the usual manifestations. If the wattles are infected they are swollen and hot. This localized form of fowl cholera infection is very often referred to as "head colds" or "roup."

In any of these forms of fowl cholera an accurate diagnosis is dependent upon the isolation and identification of the causative germ by laboratory methods. When the disease is suspected in a flock expert advice should be procured and if further aid is desired to establish a diagnosis, several recently dead birds should be sent to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Animal Industry Laboratory at Harrisburg.

Strict sanitation and early removal of sick and dead birds are necessary control measures and it should be remembered that birds which recover from fowl cholera may be carriers of infection. A lowered protein ration often proves beneficial during an acute outbreak of the disease.

## CARROT YIELD ABOVE THAT OF LAST YEAR

INDICATED 1941 production of carrots in Pennsylvania is now placed at 248,000 bushels being only slightly above the 247,000 harvested in 1940, according to the Department of Agriculture.

## INCREASE SHOWN IN BORER INFESTATION IN SOUTHEAST AREA

THE European corn borer continues on the increase in the Southeastern part of the State, according to the survey just completed in 16 counties by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced. For the first time Lancaster County shows an infestation large enough to cause damage to the corn crop. The rate of infestation was shown to be as high as 47 stalks out of 100 stalks in some sections, and the highest number of borers was nine in one stalk. The heaviest infestations are in the vicinity of Lancaster city.

In fields examined in Berks County an average infestation of 35 stalks with 10 borers as the maximum number of borers in all infested stalks were found. The greatest number of borers in 100 stalks were found in Bucks County where the average was 51 with 5.5 as the average number of borers on each infested stalk. The average infestation per 100 stalks in Chester County was 29 with an average of 5.8 borers per infested stalk.

An increase of infestation was found in Northampton County over that of last year. An average of 31 stalks per 100 were found to be infested with an average of 3.3 borers per infested stalk. The findings in 1940 were 15 stalks infested in 100 and an average of 2.9 borers per stalk. This was also true in Lehigh County where the infestation this year was found to be 14 in each 100 stalks compared with four stalks per 100 last year and the average number of borers per stalk was 2.3 compared with 1.7 in 1940.

Increases in infestation were also found in Centre County where the percentage of stalks infested jumped from 26 last year to 28 and in Crawford County which showed 25 per cent compared with 12 per cent in 1940. Chester County showed a decrease from 48 per cent last year to 29 per cent in the 1941 survey.

Emphasis is placed in the advice to corn growers upon the fact that the corn borer can be successfully controlled by simple cultural practices. The most important of these is the low cutting of corn so that when plowing, the stubbles can be completely turned under to a depth of several inches. Corn debris about the barn yards, feed lots or in any other area should be cleaned up or burned before May every Spring. In the Southeastern part of the State the clean-up should include the burning of thick-stemmed weeds, since in this area the double brooded strain of borers are prevalent and they attack such weeds and other plants including potatoes in addition to corn. Burning or thorough tramping into manure heaps of plant refuse will aid materially in keeping the corn borer under control.

## DRY WEATHER HELPS TO CUT APPLE CROP

INDICATIONS on October 1st pointed to a 9,452,000 bushel apple crop in Pennsylvania compared with a yield of 9,100 000 bushels last year, according to reports issued by the Department of Agriculture. The previous 10-year average production was 9,317,000 bushels. This increase is general throughout the commercial apple sections of the country, yields being up nine per cent in the Eastern states, up 23 per cent in the Central states and up two per cent in the Western states.

Indicated yields in the Eastern section, including Pennsylvania are below earlier expectations which is due to two separate conditions caused by the weather. The one was the storm which struck in the Erie section in late September causing large quantities of fruit to be blown from the trees and much other fruit to be bruised, and the other was the near-record dry weather during September which retarded the sizing of fruit.

Latest surveys placed the Pennsylvania peach crop at 2,308,000 bushels compared with 2,500,000 bushels last year. This yield places the crop at 71 per cent of normal compared with 76 per cent in 1940. The previous 10-year average yield was 1,789,000 bushels. As in the case of apples the dry weather retarded sizing.

Total United States production this year is placed at 69,659,000 bushels compared with 54,430,000 bushels in 1940.

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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## PRICES FARMERS PAY RISE BEYOND VALUES OF FARM PRODUCTS

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased four points during the month which ended September 15, according to Federal-State statistics issued by the Department of Agriculture, raising the level of agricultural prices to 139 per cent of the August 1909-July 1914 average. Figuring the same base period as representing 100 the purchasing power of the Pennsylvania farmer is placed at 108, but the prices he must pay for the products he purchases has risen to 133, leaving a gap of 25 points unfavorable to the farmer.

Prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities in the United States during the latest recorded period also continued to increase, the eight-point rise having lifted the level of prices to 139 per cent of the pre-war average. During the month, the sixth in which a substantial increase has occurred, farm product prices averaged 43 per cent higher than a year ago. At this level, farm product prices reached the highest peak since February, 1930 and exceeded the average of prices paid, including interest and taxes, for the first time in 21 years.

Following are the latest reported prices received by Pennsylvania farmers compared with the prices prevailing a year earlier:

| | | Sept. 15, 1940 | Sept. 15, 1941 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | Bu. | $ .75 | $ 1.00 |
| Corn | Bu. | .75 | .86 |
| Oats | Bu. | .40 | .45 |
| Barley | Bu. | .52 | .66 |
| Rye | Bu. | .59 | .72 |
| Buckwheat | Bu. | .62 | .63 |
| Potatoes | Bu. | .70 | .80 |
| Apples | Bu. | .80 | .85 |
| Hay | Ton | 9.70 | 10.20 |
| Steers | Cwt. | 6.90 | 11.50 |
| Stock cattle | Cwt. | 8.00 | 9.30 |
| Calves | Cwt. | 10.20 | 12.20 |
| Sheep | Cwt. | 3.35 | 4.05 |
| Lambs | Cwt. | 8.40 | 10.10 |
| Milk cows | Head | 77.00 | 92.00 |
| Sows | Head | 118.00 | 108.00 |
| Boars | Head | 122.00 | 114.00 |
| Chickens | Lb. | .167 | .190 |
| Eggs | Lb. | .22 | .23 |
| Butter, wholesale | Cwt. | 2.10 | 2.55 |
| Milk, retail | Qt. | .114 | .119 |
| Butter | Lb. | .29 | .36 |
| Lard | Lb. | .28 | .36 |
| Bacon | Doz. | .274 | .355 |
| Wool | Lb. | .34 | .41 |

## AVERAGE PRODUCTION OF EGGS CONTINUES HIGH FOR PA. LAYERS

IN contrast to the national situation in which laying flocks showed an increase of two per cent in September over last year, Pennsylvania farm laying flocks were four per cent smaller last month, compared with a year earlier and additions to laying flocks during the month fell below the seasonal increase of the past two years, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light has announced. However, reports would indicate that the number of pullets remaining to be added to laying flocks later this Fall and Winter is about 10 per cent larger than last year. Production per layer on October 1 was equal to the 17-year record high for the average established for that date each year. The number of layers on October 1 in farm flocks in this State was 12,424,000 compared with 12,570,000 a year earlier and production for September was 132 million eggs compared with 135 million eggs during that month in 1940.

Egg production for the nation during September totaled 7,353,000 cases, a record for the month for the country at large. Production during the first nine months of this year was the largest since 1937 and the 1941 annual production is expected to exceed that of last year by four to five per cent.

The production of baby chicks by commercial hatcheries set a new high record for the month and was 79 per cent above September last year and 69 per cent above the previous high reached in September, 1939. Hatchery-output is finding a large demand especially from the egg industry but recent price rises for grain have reduced poultry-feed ratios below a year ago.

### Wheat Importations

Importations of wheat into the United States from July, 1940, to August, 1941, totaled to 10,732,000 bushels, according to figures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## PROLONGED SEASON AIDS APPLE HARVEST

THE apple harvest in the Pennsylvania fruit districts of Adams, Franklin, Berks, Lehigh and other fruit areas, is nearing the end according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. In spite of the shortage of pickers the unusually favorable weather conditions aided growers materially in that the harvest was extended over a greater period of time. Yields have been disappointingly low, however, according to the reports, as the result of the dry weather which prevented the fruit from attaining full size.

It is suggested that the market for high quality fruit is advancing and that because of less than a normal supply of packaged apples in storage, may be expected to advance further during the Winter. It is also suggested that for household consumption apples may be purchased at an advantage at the present time for future use since in addition to the rising market storage costs are added later in the season.

## POTATO YIELD ABOVE THAT OF LAST YEAR

ON October 1st the indicated production of potatoes in Pennsylvania was placed at 23,674,000 bushels, according to compiled surveys issued by the Department of Agriculture. This yield compares with 24,570,000 bushels last year. The acreage was reduced from 189,000 acres last year to 178,000 acres in 1941. The yield per acre is indicated at 133 bushels compared with 130 bushels last year.

Decreased production is also indicated for the country as a whole, estimates placing the yield at 374,533,000 bushels compared with the production of 397,722,000 bushels in 1940. An average of 129 bushels per acre is indicated for 1941 compared with 130.3 bushels last year.

## CELERY PRODUCTION REDUCED BY DROUGHT

ACCORDING to reports to the Department of Agriculture celery under irrigation in the Bucks-Philadelphia area is in good condition but yields are comparatively lower than last year with many growers reporting from one-quarter to one-third less per acre, due to the prolonged hot, dry weather.

Much spinach in that area came up in spotted and uneven stands. The heat and lack of moisture caused plants to yellow and curl, making harvest difficult. Supplies have been much lighter than last year. Peak of the late crop movement to market has passed but will continue during November at a somewhat reduced rate.

Reports show that many late crop tomatoes in the Western counties were soft and of poor quality. It is believed that due to the dry period it will be shown that the late tomato crop was only about half of normal.

## SHOW PREMIUM LIST NOW BEING PRINTED

THE premium list for the Pennsylvania Farm Show which will be held from January 19th to 23rd, is now in the hands of the printer and will be mailed to all interested persons immediately it is received by the Department of Agriculture. The various committees of the Farm Show Commission of which Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light is chairman, are completing their arrangements for the great annual event which will mark its 26th anniversary.

Operations never cease at the 14-acre farm show building where work is constantly going on in maintaining the vast structure and in improving equipment and making changes through which even greater service can be rendered during the great farm show. Changes have been made in the main floor exhibition plan for the next show, spaces having been regrouped to allow for the better display of some of the agricultural products. The new plan will also overcome congested traffic conditions on each side of the vast exhibition floor in that it eliminates dead end aisles, permitting the crowds to pass directly into the entrances leading from the main floor.

A large variety of exhibitors have already arranged for space to display their products.

## CATTLE SOMETIMES POISONED BY EATING SWEET CLOVER HAY

ATTENTION of the farmer is directed by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture to the possible danger of feeding sweet clover to cattle in the form of hay or silage. Some instances occasionally occur in which the death of cattle is attributed to that kind of feeding. Cases of disease have also been reported where cattle have grazed on the matured or damaged plants. The disease is caused by a chemical reaction which takes place in the plant usually after it has been cut for hay or silage.

Cattle are the most subject to the poisoning. While it may occur in sheep, it is of minor importance as a sheep disease. Horses are rarely affected. Young cattle, three years old and under are most susceptible while older cattle might show evidence of the disease if feeding of toxic hay is continued. Cattle can develop symptoms in two weeks or it might be 50 days before the symptoms appear. Calves from affected cows often bleed to death at birth.

It is pointed out that all sweet clover is not poison to cattle. All moldy sweet clover hay is not poison. It is stated that where cattle on one farm develop the disease from eating the sweet clover hay, there might be many other farms where cattle are fed hay similar in appearance and are not affected. It is also stated that the visible mold on the hay is not a guiding factor regarding its toxicity and that many herds of cattle have been fed throughout the Winter on hay so mouldy it is in a caked mass without ill effects. In other cases where sweet clover hay is fed alone or in mixed hay and in apparently a perfect cured condition, the toxin may be present and cause the disease. New sweet clover hay has been known to cause the disease eight days after it was stacked.

Affected animals often show dullness and stiffness and are reluctant to move. After stiffness appears, swellings may develop on any part of the body or limbs which will emit blood. Death is finally caused by the loss of blood.

When symptoms are noticed it is necessary to change feed at once, but additional cases may develop for a week or 10 days. It is stated that in affected animals not treated except by a change of feed there will be a 75 per cent loss. Prompt and proper treatment is effective, the cattle usually recovering in a short time.

## HOLSTEINS AVERAGE $172.50 AT ANNUAL PA. FEDERATION SALE

AT the recent Pennsylvania Federation State Holstein sale conducted at the State Farm Show Building, 53 head of cattle were sold at an average price of $172.50. All the cattle were from Pennsylvania breeders and calves were included in the list.

All officers of the Pennsylvania Federation of Holstein-Friesian Clubs were re-elected at the annual meeting of that organization held recently in the Farm Show Building, Harrisburg. The officers are C. A. Burdick, Wrightsville, president; Earl Groff, Strasburg, vice president, and Clarence Lyons, secretary-treasurer, Strasburg.

The following directors were also chosen: Bucks County, Joseph O. Camby; Crawford County, I. J. Smith; Cumberland County, Jesse Kurtz; Lancaster County, Clair Eby; Columbia County, J. A. Fairchild; Lycoming County, H. A. Snyder; Montgomery County, William H. Landis; Northampton County, Floyd Shook; Susquehanna County, Russell S. Dayton; Tioga County, Roy S. Bowan; Union County, John S. Wehr; Indiana County, C. S. Gerhard; Bradford County, Charles S. Chaffee; Wyoming County, A. S. Hallock; Butler County, R. C. Neuman; Southwestern Pennsylvania Holstein-Friesian Club, J. H. Silver, Jr.; Perry County, Stanley T. Gahel; Potter County, Rosell H. Lette; York County, Norman Rischel, and director-at-large, Albert B. Craig.

It was decided at the meeting that during the third week in December members of the federation will visit all dairies in their areas on a good-will tour for the purpose of establishing closer relationship between the milk producer and the dealer.

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## GREAT REDUCTION IN PULLORUM DISEASE RECORDED IN PENNA.

UNDER the Pennsylvania Method for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Pullorum Disease in poultry, outstanding progress has been made in the effort to wipe that scourge from flocks in this State, according to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. The disease, often called white diarrhea, is found in all sections where chicks are produced and has accounted for losses to poultrymen amounting to millions of dollars. The disease can be controlled and even eliminated through the method promulgated by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Through the use of the agglutination test, the infected adult birds can be detected, which furnishes a valuable method of control.

The Pennsylvania Method is based on sanitary principles and includes repeated blood-testing of the flock, the elimination of reactors and the correction of unsanitary conditions. The program is conducted by the flock owner in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry. The blood samples of the birds are procured at the expense of the flock owner and sent to the Animal Industry Bureau Laboratory at Harrisburg where they are tested free of charge under the standard tube agglutination method.

The method has now been in operation for 16 years and has been greatly advanced during the past two years. It was first inaugurated in 1925 when 15,179 birds were blood-tested. The method has been steadily advancing in scope until in 1940 there were 630,843 chickens and 12 other fowl including turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas and pigeons, officially blood-tested. The value of the method is seen by the gradual decline in the percentage of reactors or diseased birds, the disease having been reduced from the high point of 10.37 per cent in 1927 to the low point of 2.56 per cent in 1940.

The following suggestions are listed by the Bureau to be followed in the control of the disease: Promptly slaughter reactors and send the leg bands to the Bureau of Animal Industry laboratory; clean and disinfect the house after the removal of reactors; burn the refuse from reactors killed for home consumption; burn infertile eggs; retest infected flocks at frequent intervals; test negative flocks once a year; all birds should be at least four months old when tested; accurately record the numbers and blood samples when testing; test all fowls on the premises; do not practice custom hatching. Eggs from tested flocks only should be used for hatching purposes; purchase only chicks and mature birds only from pullorum disease free sources; isolate and test all birds returning from shows and breeding tests.

## GYPSY MOTH CAUSES GREAT DEPREDATIONS

THE disaster being wrought in the New England states by the gypsy moth is looked upon as offering definite reason for action by Congress to make available Federal appropriations for the control of the pest as is being urged by Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light. Through the efforts of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture operating through its Bureau of Plant Industry and the cooperation of the Federal Government in providing labor from the WPA funds, the pest has been prevented from spreading from the area in the Northern section of this State in which it was first found in Pennsylvania, but Secretary Light insists that it can be entirely eliminated through more intensive efforts and that being a matter of national scope, Federal appropriations must be provided to carry out more intensified programs.

During the past season in five New England states more than 468,000 acres of forest land was stripped of 25 per cent or more of its foliage by the moth. Of this acreage 263,369 acres were in Massachusetts alone in spite of the fact that $1 a million dollars is spent annually by that State on control measures, mostly for shade and roadside tree protection.

In the area affected in Massachusetts more than 70,000 acres were completely stripped of foliage which will result in the death of many of those trees from this year's attack. Of the more important species such as oak, few will remain alive if the attack is repeated next year.

## PENNA. TOMATO CROP LARGEST ON RECORD

PENNSYLVANIA growers produced the largest crop and the highest quality of tomatoes this year than in any previous year, according to preliminary reports to the Department of Agriculture. Yields are expected to show an increase of 32 per cent over the production last year, which was the highest on record.

The average yield of six and one half tons per acre on the 22,000 acres planted shows an indicated total production of 143,000 tons. At an estimated average price paid of $16.50 per ton, the crop this year returned approximately $2,359,500 to Pennsylvania farmers. This compares with the income of $1,428,300 realized from canning tomatoes grown in this State in 1940 when the acreage was 18,700. The average yield last year was 5.7 tons per acre and the average price received by the farmer was $13.40 per ton.

The total United States production of canning tomatoes this year is placed at 2,563,500 tons, which is an increase of 13 per cent above last year's crop, and the highest on record.

Early reports on the State grading of the canning tomato crop indicate that the average grade of the 1941 crop was higher than in any year since grading was instituted in 1927.

## CERTIFIED NURSERIES HIT NEW HIGH MARK

UP to October 1 a total of 1,082 nurseries had been certified by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture, according to reports to Secretary John H. Light. This compares with 1,045 nurseries having been certified on that date last year, and 966 nurseries in 1939. The report also shows that 257 resident dealers in nursery stock and 45 collectors had been certified. Certificates had also been issued to 234 nonresident nurseries.

In order to procure certificates resident dealers must agree to purchase stock only from nurseries which have been certified as being free of plant pests, insects and disease, whether located in this or any other state. All shipments of nursery stock must bear a copy of the certification.

The growth of the nursery business in this State is shown by the records of the Bureau of Plant Industry since 1927 in which year there were a total of 400 nurseries certified. They comprised a total of 4,869 acres. In 1929 the number was 478 nurseries consisting of 7,078 acres. Two years later the number was 563 and the acreage 8,606. In 1933 the number had increased to 763 with a total of 9,970 acres. In 1935 there were 810 nurseries with a total acreage of 12,768 acres. The acreage in 1939 was 7,094 and the acreage last year was 8,882 acres. The variance in the acreage as compared with the increase in the number of nurseries is due to the fact that in the years from 1929 to 1937 the estimated acreage of collectors was included. Collectors are those who collect wild growing stock.

## MORE PA. POTATOES ARE BEING GRADED

HARVEST of the Pennsylvania potato crop has been completed and potatoes which were not sold from the field have been stored for later shipment to the market or for the Winter months, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. The prolonged season as the result of favorable weather conditions which permitted extension of digging the crop, overcame to a great extent the shortage of labor which might have proved serious under normal season conditions.

According to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture a larger proportion of the crop is being graded according to official State grades and certified by Federal-State inspectors than in any previous year. This policy has had a marked stimulation on the sale of Pennsylvania potatoes. The inspectors report that the crop is better than average although the tubers have not attained as large size as might have been the case had the season not been so dry.

The price of potatoes has been increasing over the past few weeks and it is suggested that consumers might do well to procure their Winter supplies as indications are that prices may still further advance later in the season.

## QUARANTINE LIFTED IN FIVE ADDITIONAL POTATO WART AREAS

UNDER an order signed by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, five areas in this State are removed from the potato wart quarantine, the disease having been eliminated from those sections through soil treatments and supervision of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Agricultural department. The areas released are Mauch Chunk, Sheppton and Oneida in Schuylkill County and Snowshoe and Clarence in Centre County.

Release of those areas brings the total to 16 sections which have been cleared of the disease in various parts of the State since 1938. The other areas are Moosic, Lackawanna County; Osceola Mills, Clearfield County; Newtown, Centre County; Rural Valley and Yatesboro, Armstrong County; Robertsdale and Wood on the boundaries of Bedford, Huntingdon and Fulton counties; Jackson, Schuylkill County, and Lilly, Nanty Glo and Vintondale, Cambria County.

It is now known that the potato wart was brought to this country about 20 years ago when due to a shortage in this country potatoes were imported from Europe. Those potatoes were shipped in carload lots to the industrial and mining areas in this State and the refuse from those potatoes contaminated the soil. The disease, however, was not discovered until 1918 after which official surveys were made and the infected areas placed under strict quarantine. The disease was first found at Freeland, Luzerne County. In succeeding years surveys were extended to cover all suspected areas and by 1936, the last year in which new wart infections were uncovered, the area under quarantine in this State included the whole of four townships and 40 scattered towns and villages in 13 counties.

Quarantines were maintained as a control measure and in 1932 as the result of experiments, it was found that the disease could probably be eliminated through soil treatments. Under that plan agents of the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the land owners clear the infected land of all growth which is burned, and plant a variety of potato which is known to be susceptible to the disease. If the disease develops on that crop the area is spot treated with chemicals, planted each year, and kept under inspection for a minimum period of four years. If at the end of that period no trace of the disease is found the quarantine is lifted and the area declared wart disease free. After that time, however, periodic inspections are made to prevent a reoccurrence of the disease.

Over 90 percent of the Pennsylvania potato crop consists of varieties which are susceptible to wart.

During the past two and one half years the program, under Secretary Light has been advanced vigorously with the result that nine sections located in Clearfield, Cambria, Somerset and Carbon counties are now under the four-year treatment plan. During the period of quarantine before the soil treatment plan is inaugurated only the Spalding Rose variety of potato, which is known to be nonsusceptible to the disease, is planted.

It is known that the disease exists only in the higher elevations and as the result of the intensive activities of the Department of Agriculture has been confined entirely to home gardens, its spread to commercial farms having been prevented.

The last unit eradication project approved by Secretary Light covers the villages of Ommalinda, Benscreek, Springhill, Salt Rock, Puritan and Martindale in Cambria County, comprising a total of 325 gardens of which 77 gardens are infected. The total estimated area comprises 800,000 square feet.

## EXHIBITORS ALREADY PLAN SPACE IN SHOW

RESERVATIONS and inquiries for exhibition display space at the Pennsylvania Farm Show which will be held January 19 to 23 are already being received and compare favorably with last year at the similar period although that year took the lead for early action on the part of exhibitors, according to Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light, who is chairman of the Farm Show Commission. Revisions made in the Main Building floor plan will provide for relief of congestion of the visitors as well as providing better display spaces.

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## TEST 56,436 CATTLE DURING ONE MONTH FOR BANG DISEASE

DURING the month of October a total of 4,854 herds comprising 56,436 cattle were tested for Bang disease, according to the report of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced. Of that total 1,834 cattle in 697 herds were found to be affected by the disease and were condemned. The percentage of infection in herds was 14.3 per cent and of the cattle was 3.2 per cent.

At the present time, the report states, there are 10,302 herds comprising 209,600 cattle which have undergone tests under the individual plan, the expense of which is borne by the herd owners, under the supervision of the Bureau of Animal Industry. There are also 61,566 herds comprising 413,717 cattle under the Bureau's supervision which have been tested under the area plan under which the tests are conducted by the Bureau and indemnities paid by the State and Federal governments for condemned cattle. There are now 6,264 herds consisting of 126,872 cattle which are classified as certified, no disease having been found in those herds after at least two tests administered within one year.

During the month of October the State paid indemnities for 2,387 cattle amounting to $77,711 and the Federal indemnity amounted to $62,717. Up to that time since June, 1937, when State indemnity payments were inaugurated, the State had paid a total of $2,250,790. The Federal government has paid an additional $2,-[illegible]638 for cattle condemned as being affected by the disease since August, [illegible]4, when Federal payments were started.

A steady increase is noted in the number of dairymen who are availing themselves of the calfhood vaccination plan inaugurated by the Department last March which has been adopted as a Bang disease preventive plan. Vaccination can be carried on only under permits issued by and the supervision of the Bureau of Animal Industry. During October 162 calves in 31 herds were vaccinated, bringing the total since the adoption of the plan to 978 calves in 154 herds.

## FARMERS' COSTS RISE FASTER THAN INCOME

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased three points during the month ended October 15, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. The prices farmers pay for the things they need, however, also advanced three points to 136 of the pre-war base during that period, while his purchasing power continued at the same rate which was 108 of the pre-war base.

The general level of farm product prices in the United States on October 15 was unchanged from a month earlier. At 139 per cent of the August 1909-July 1914 average, the mid-October index was the same as a month earlier but 40 points above the average for October 15, 1940. The leveling off of prices followed a period of six consecutive months during which substantial rises each month carried the index up a total of 36 points. Prices of grains, and meat animals declined during the month, while prices of truck crops, fruit, dairy products, chickens and eggs and miscellaneous products were higher than a month earlier. Some declines in prices of grains and meat animals are usual at this season of heavy marketing. All groups of commodities are well above their respective averages a year earlier despite the large production and heavy supplies of most farm products. It is becoming increasingly probable that aggregate crop production this year will nearly equal the high record established in 1937. Livestock production has also been heavy.

Following are the prices of Pennsylvania products:

| | | Oct. 15, 1940 | Oct. 15, 1941 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | Bu. | $ .79 | $ 1.00 |
| Corn | Bu. | .76 | .81 |
| Rye | Bu. | .38 | .45 |
| Oats | Bu. | .54 | .65 |
| Buckwheat | Bu. | .62 | .73 |
| Potatoes | Bu. | .54 | .61 |
| Apples | Bu. | .65 | .80 |
| Pears | Bu. | .75 | .85 |
| Hay | Ton | 9.70 | 11.00 |
| Steers | Cwt. | 6.60 | 10.80 |
| Stocker cattle | Cwt. | 7.90 | 9.00 |
| Veal calves | Cwt. | $ 10.30 | $ 11.90 |
| Sheep | Cwt. | 3.15 | 3.75 |
| Lambs | Cwt. | 8.20 | 9.70 |
| Milk cows | Head | 79.00 | 92.00 |
| Horses | Head | 119.00 | 106.00 |
| Mules | Head | 120.00 | 113.00 |
| Chickens | Lb. | .162 | .191 |
| Turkeys | Lb. | .22 | .25 |
| Milk, wholesale | Cwt. | 2.15 | 2.65 |
| Milk, retail | Qt. | .116 | .120 |
| Butter | Lb. | .31 | .37 |
| Butterfat | Lb. | .29 | .37 |
| Eggs | Doz. | .299 | .381 |
| Wool | Lb. | .37 | .41 |

## VARIED PRODUCTION OF WHEAT IN PENNA. RECORDED SINCE 1866

RECORDS of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture dating back to 1866 show interesting variations in the production of wheat in this State and the value of that crop. With the exception of 1932 when 889,000 acres were harvested which was the lowest acreage of any year, the greatest reductions in acreage were made in 1940 and this year, in each of which 907,000 acres were harvested. In 1939, 916,000 acres were harvested. The high acreage year was in 1901 when wheat in this State was produced on 1,676,070 acres.

The lowest recorded production was in 1866 when a total of 10,519,660 bushels were produced on 956,333 acres, but the value of the crop was considerably above many higher yielding years, the average price per bushel received by the farmer having been $1.86. The year 1907 was the banner production year when the yield was 30,095,000 bushels from 1,618,000 acres. The value of the crop that year was $28,891,000, the farmer having received an average price of 96 cents per bushel.

In 1894 the wheat crop had the lowest value of any recorded year. Although the production was 18,415,185 bushels on 1,227,679 acres, the value was only $10,-312,504, the average price per bushel having been 56 cents. The yield per acre was 15 bushels and it was in that year also that the value of the crop per acre, placed at $8.40, hit the lowest mark in any of the years on record. The high mark in value of the crop was reached in 1918 when a production of 25,160,000 bushels from 1,480,000 acres were valued at $53,-842,000 or an average of $2.14 per bushel. It was in the following year, however, that the highest per bushel price was reached, when 24,658,000 bushels with an average price of $2.16 were valued at $53,261,000. A total of 24,658,000 acres were harvested that year and the value of the crop per acre was $37.80, the highest on record. In 1917 the value of the crop also hit the fifty million mark when 24,482,000 bushels were produced on 1,399,000 acres which had an average bushel value of $2.05. The lowest per bushel price was recorded in 1932 when the price was 52 cents. That year was also the lowest in acreage when 889,000 acres were harvested. The production was 13,335,000, and the total value of the crop was only $6,934,000 which was nearly four million dollars below the previous low.

Last year 18,594,000 bushels were harvested from the 907,000 acres. The average price per bushel was 83 cents, giving a value of $15,991,000 to the crop. Production this year is placed at 18,140,000 bushels.

During the years on record the yield per acre has shown a progressive increase ranging from 11 bushels in 1866 to a low of 9.7 bushels in each of the years of 1885 and 1887 to the high of 22 bushels in 1930 and 1931. The yield this year is placed at 20 bushels per acre.

## GREAT REDUCTIONS IN SPINACH, LETTUCE

THE fall spinach crop yields in the Bucks-Philadelphia area, where not watered, are at least 50 per cent lower than last year with many complete failures especially in the Davisville section. The irrigated fields are 100 per cent, yields being normal with quality excellent. Prices have generally held up well as there is a strong demand for supplies from processors.

Fall lettuce in the Southeastern counties was a near failure due to the extreme heat during September and October. The turnip and rutabaga crops have also been reduced at least 30 percent.

## MEAT INSPECTION IS VAST ENTERPRISE OF DEPARTMENT BUREAU

THE great extent and varied scope of operations of the Division of Meat Hygiene of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture is seen in the reports covering the period from January 1 to October 31 during which millions of pounds of meat and meat products have undergone examination by the agents of the department before it was placed on the market for consumption.

The reports show that during the 10-month period a total of 54,742 carcasses were examined in meat markets and slaughter houses and that of the number 14 were condemned. A total of nearly eight million pounds of organs were examined of which nearly six million pounds were passed for use and nearly two million pounds were condemned.

The high point in the inspection work is that involving meat and meat products. Nearly 35 million pounds were inspected during the 10 months of this year, 28,149 pounds of which were condemned. Inspection of poultry for human consumption entailed the examination of more than nine million pounds, 95,403 pounds of which were condemned.

Agents of the department also examined 1,306 livestock markets and performed ante-mortem examinations totaling 702,-080. As a result of those examinations 305 cattle were placed in quarantine, 129 of which later died.

In commenting on the work of that division, Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture stated that "The wide scope of operations of that division indicates to some extent the varied work performed in the Department of Agriculture which consists of five separate bureaus, each of which has several divisions. In this work, as in the case of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry, the constant effort is to prevent the marketing of food which is unfit for human consumption, to prevent misbranding, deception and fraudulent practices. In this work the department receives the wholehearted cooperation of the great majority of businesses engaged in the various enterprises but is constantly on the alert for violations on the part of the indiscriminate operators. The records show that the work is carried on intensively, assuring insofar as possible, protection to the public in the matter of food supplies."

## GOAT DAIRYING IS SHOWING INCREASE

A STEADY increase in goat dairying in this State is noted in reports to the Department of Agriculture. There is said to be a continual increase in the demand for goat milk, particularly in the largely populated centers with the result that more goat herds are being established.

The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture reports that there is a greater tendency on the part of goat owners to have their animals disease tested and placed under the supervision of the Bureau to keep them free of disease.

At the present time there are 131 herds comprising 1,166 goats under the supervision of the Bureau under the Bang disease testing plan. Of that number 54 herds consisting of 658 goats have been certified as being free of the disease after at least two consecutive tests given over a period of one year. A total of 77 herds comprising 508 goats are free of the disease but have not been without the disease over a sufficient period of time to be given the certified rating.

## DROUGHT CUTS YIELD OF CELERY, PRICES UP

A GOOD crop of late celery is being harvested in the central and western counties, yields being just slightly lower than last year due to dry weather throughout much of the growing season, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. In the Bucks-Philadelphia area where yields are much below last year's crop movement up to the present time is 20 per cent above the same period in 1940. Prices have been steady and quite satisfactory to growers this year. Movement of the crop, as usual, will be at peak volume during the latter part of November.

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## MAJOR GRAIN YIELDS EXCEED PRODUCTION OF LAST YEAR IN PA.

TOTAL production this year of the principal grains grown in Pennsylvania will exceed last year's production about two and one-half million bushels according to indications on November 1, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light announced. The increase occurs, however, in only three of the six crops, with corn accounting for the major part and buckwheat and oats accounting for the balance.

Indications point to a total yield in of 56,594,000 bushels compared with 54,000,000 bushels last year. Buckwheat production is expected to reach 2,300,000 bushels compared with 2,118,000 bushels 1940. Only a slight increase is noted the oats crop, production this year being placed at 31,257,000 bushels compared with 31,080,000 bushels last year. Decreases are indicated in the other three principal crops. Wheat production gone from 18,594,000 in 1940 to 18,000,000 bushels this year. Barley production is placed at 3,822,000 bushels compared with 4,030,000 bushels last year. The rye yield last year was 1,044,000 bushels compared with 966,000 bushels this year.

The heavier corn production came from acreage than was planted last year the crop occupied 1,341,000 acres compared with 1,301,000 acres this year, yield per acre having jumped from bushels to 43.5 bushels. Yield per acre buckwheat also increased from 17.5 to bushels while yields of the other crops showed only slight variance.

## SOYBEAN PRODUCTION ADVANCING IN PENNA.

MARKED increase in interest in the production of soybeans for beans this State has been evident during the past according to reports to the Department of Agriculture, Secretary H. Light announced. That interest that crop will probably be accelerated suggested from the fact that soybean processors are directing attention to Pennsylvania as a probable source for supplies. One out-of-state processor has opened a small plant in the northern of Pennsylvania and is planning an expansion of operations and inquiries been made relative to possibilities increased production by another processor.

During the past few years there has a steady increase in the production soybeans for use as roughage for cattle and as that production advanced the planting of the crop for the beans has increased.

In 1939 it was reported that the crop beans was grown on 12,000 acres in State from which a total of 159,533 bushels were produced. Last year the acreage was 15,000 acres and the production was 255,000 bushels.

The leading bean producing counties Bucks, 22,451 bushels; Chester, 16,186 bushels; Lycoming, 12,776 bushels, and Lancaster, 12,582 bushels.

## PRODUCTION 59.54% IN EGG LAYING TEST

AT the end of the fifth week of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying production was up to 59.54 percent. total number of eggs produced since opening of the test was 23,028 or an average of 20.84 eggs for each of the birds entered. Production for the was placed at 67.40 percent.

The leading pen for the entire period one of single comb white leghorns owned by Kauder's Pedigreed Leghorns has produced a total of 376 eggs which it received 385.15 points. A of Rhode Island reds, owned by J. J. Green was second on the list with a production of 383 eggs and 370.70 points. These are based upon the weight of produced, a dozen of 24 ounce eggs being 100 points.

### Increase Truck Acreage

Slight increases are indicated throughout the country in truck crop acreages in Higher costs may limit expansion. Requests are for an increase of five cent in truck crops for market and per cent in acreage of truck crops for processing. Since the supply situation for is not yet fully determined, the 1942 now indicated are tentative and may changed later.

## PENNA. RANKS THIRD IN PEAR PRODUCTION

AS a fruit producing state Pennsylvania ranks high in the production of apples and peaches and not much importance is generally attached to its pear crop. Records of the Department of Agriculture show, however, that this State ranks third among the seven leading states of this country in the production of that crop.

Preliminary figures released by Secretary John H. Light place the commercial crop alone for this year at 652,000 bushels and that figure is considerably below the yield of last year when for commercial purposes, 873,000 bushels were produced. Dry weather conditions this year are held responsible for a large part of the lower yield.

Total commercial production from the seven pear producing states this year is placed at 30,820,000 bushels with California leading the list with 9,293,000 bushels and New York second with a yield of 1,272,000 bushels. The other states are Virginia, 448,000 bushels; Georgia, 352,000 bushels; Maryland, 97,000 bushels, and New Jersey, 46,000 bushels.

## LOW RATE SHOWN IN T B AFFECTED CATTLE

TUBERCULIN tests of cattle made during October by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture continue to show the small number of cattle in this State which are affected by that disease. Of the 43,643 cattle tested only 151 reacted. Tests were also applied to 70 goats during the month and none of those were affected by the disease. During that period a total of $7,256 was paid in State indemnity and $5,964 in Federal indemnity to owners of cattle which had been condemned.

The report of the Bureau submitted to Secretary of Agriculture, John H. Light shows that during the month a total of 146,003 specimens were examined at the laboratory of the bureau for various forms of disease. Of that number 50,313 specimens were blood samples of cattle for Bang disease and 95,086 specimens were chickens, most of which were examined for pullorum disease.

The report also shows that during the month 8,297 swine were vaccinated against hog cholera on 153 premises and that eight premises were quarantined.

The brains of 22 animals were examined for rabies at the laboratory, 10 of which were found to be positive. The report shows that 52 persons and 71 animals were bitten or exposed to rabid dogs. The counties in which cases of rabies were reported are Allegheny, Armstrong, Clearfield, Fayette, and Washington.

## NO SHORTAGE SEEN IN TURKEY SUPPLY

ALTHOUGH it is expected that the records will show increased purchases of turkeys for the Thanksgiving holidays as a result of the greater buying power caused by the defense program, there are no indications that the supplies of the festive bird were not ample to fill the demands. The estimated number of turkeys in Pennsylvania was 997,000, or eight percent above last year. It is not known what percentage of birds were marketed for Thanksgiving, but preliminary surveys indicated that it might exceed last year's marketings by about two percent. Throughout the country, however, indicated marketings were 43.4 percent for November, compared with 42.1 percent last year.

Pennsylvania is a heavy turkey importing state, many of the birds on the markets in the larger cities coming from the western states. The weight of turkeys continues to increase due to the growing popularity of the broad-breasted type. The average live weight at the time of marketing this year is expected to be about a fourth of a pound heavier than last year, or 12.2 pounds for hens and 18.6 pounds for toms, compared with 12 pounds for hens and 18.3 pounds for toms last season.

Smaller holdings of turkeys in cold storage are reported compared with the number held last year at this time. In the Middle Atlantic states where nearly a fourth of the turkeys in cold storage are held, the amount was placed at 4,193,000 pounds compared with 7,156,000 pounds on the comparable date last year.

## BIG INCREASE SHOWN IN PA. FARM WAGES LABOR SUPPLY DOWN

THE extent to which farm labor and farm wages have been affected since January 1, 1940 when the defense program began being more fully felt is shown by records of the Department of Agriculture in which a progressive rise in wages is recorded while the supply of labor has been steadily downward.

According to the reports the monthly wage with board on farms in this State averaged $25.50. On October 1, this year, that figure had climbed to an average of $34.75. The average monthly wage rate without board on the former date was $40.50 but on the latter date this average had gone to $51.25. The daily wage rate with board increased from $1.60 to $2.25 and the average rate of pay per day without board changed from $2.15 to $2.85.

As the wage rate advanced the supply decreased progressively. On January 1, 1940 the supply of farm labor stood at 89 percent of normal, but this figure on October 1, this year, was reduced to 56 percent. As the available labor diminished the demand naturally increased and on the former date the demand was 82 percent of normal but this figure had advanced to 99 percent on last October 1. On the former date the supply was 109 percent of the demand but on October 1 this condition had changed to 57 percent.

Industry engaged in defense work is said to be the greatest contributing factor in the farm labor situation. Although farm wages have increased considerably since the inauguration of the defense program, they have not been able to keep pace with the wages in industry with the result that the exodus from the farm labor ranks is still taking place. The military draft has also taken many men from the farms, leaving agriculture in the position of having few sources from which to procure labor.

Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light stated that reports throughout the State indicate labor shortages in practically all areas and much concern is felt about conditions which it is expected will be met with during the coming planting and harvesting seasons as it is believed the labor situation will be more serious than it was in the past seasons.

## 9,551 DOG LICENSES ISSUED DURING OCT.

A TOTAL of 9,551 individual dog licenses were issued during the month of October by the dog law enforcement division of the Department of Agriculture according to the report to Secretary John H. Light. During that period there were 204 prosecutions for violations of the dog laws. The total revenue brought from the license fees and from the fines as the result of the prosecutions amounted to $13,801.

During the month 1,999 stray and uncontrolled dogs were killed by police officers of the various localities throughout the State in addition to 49 dogs having been killed by agents of the department.

Damages to livestock and poultry caused by dogs during the month cost the State $2,323. The damages involved 132 claims. A total of $112 was collected by the State from dog owners whose animals had caused damage and settlements made between persons who incurred damages and dog owners amounted to $594.

## DEALERS, BROKERS MUST HAVE LICENSE

A NUMBER of inquiries are received throughout the year by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture regarding the application of the Livestock Dealer's License Law. Licenses to deal in livestock are required by any person, or persons, association or corporation engaging in the business as a dealer or broker handling 100 or more animals per year. The law does not apply to cooperatives, any person buying or selling less than 100 animals in a year, or any person disposing of his own stock in a farm sale, or any butcher or other person buying animals to be fed on his own farm.

Small license fees are required by dealers and brokers, but the law is not a revenue raising measure, the object of the law being that the Department of Agriculture shall have assurance of the financial responsibility of the dealer or broker. Financial recommendations must be given in the application for a license.

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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## OCT. PRODUCTION OF EGGS HIGHER IN PA. DECREASE IN LAYERS

ALTHOUGH the number of layers in flocks on Pennsylvania farms was lower in October than in that month a year previously, there was an increase in egg production of approximately seven million eggs, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced. The number of layers this year was placed at 13,699,000 compared with 13,758,000 in October, 1940 and the number of eggs produced was 125 million compared with 118 million. The monthly number of eggs per layer increased from 8.6 to 9.1.

Throughout the country egg production during October totaled 6,600,000 cases, a record production for the month. About half of the increase is attributed to an increase in the number of layers and the other half to an increase in the rate of lay. Production during the 10 months of this year also was the largest on record. The rate of egg production per layer during the month reached a record high of 8.2 eggs and the aggregate production of 127.6 eggs per layer in the past 10 months was the largest on record, exceeding the layings of last year by five percent and the previous 10-year average by nine percent. The daily rate of lay on November 1 as shown by sample farm flocks was a record for that date, being two percent higher than the previous record high of last year and 28 percent above the previous 10-year average.

Farm laying flocks in the country during October averaged nearly 219 million layers, which is the largest number for the month since 1930. The number of layers in Pennsylvania flocks was slightly smaller than a year ago.

The average number of pullets not yet of laying age in farm flocks on November 1 was reported at 36 birds, which is 1.7 birds above the average a year previously and 1.4 birds above the previous high record on November 1, 1939. The number of all potential layers in the United States on November 1, which is the total of layers and pullets not yet added to the laying flock, was seven percent larger than a year earlier.

## BRAMBLE PLANTINGS DECREASE IN NUMBER

INTEREST in bramble plant growing decreased in Pennsylvania during the past year due probably to the increased income farmers received for other farm crops, according to the report of the Bureau of Plant Industry to Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light. While growers of certified plants disposed of most of their stock last Spring and received fair prices, there were only 108 plantings entered for certification during this year compared with 140 plantings inspected in 1940. There were 83 plantings certified and 25 rejected this year.

According to the report mosaic, crown gall and wilt were the diseases most frequently encountered during the year. The early part of the inspection season was favorable for the detection of virus diseases. During the latter part of the season conditions were favorable for the development of wilt with the result that more of that disease was found than in any other recent year. That disease thrives in hot dry weather.

The percentage of rejected plantings was not as great this year as in past years which caused a slight increase in the number of plantings certified over 1940 but there will be fewer certified plants available for sale next Spring because of the unfavorable growing conditions during the period when the new plants take root and develop.

Applications for inspection and certification of bramble plants must be made to the department before May 15 of any year.

## DECREASE IS SHOWN IN EGGS IN STORAGE

COLD storage stocks of eggs on a national basis on November 1, including the shell equivalent of frozen eggs, were 22 percent less than a month earlier, but 12 percent more than a year previously and 18 percent more than the five-year average, according to reports to the Department of Agriculture. About 17 percent of the storage eggs are held by the government corporations.

## MAIL APPLICATIONS FOR 1942 LICENSES

APPLICATIONS for 1942 licenses have been mailed to various lines of businesses which are required to be licensed with the Foods and Chemistry Bureau of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary John H. Light has announced.

The businesses are bakeries, wholesalers, retailers, dining rooms, hotels, boarding houses and restaurants where oleomargarine is sold or served; ice cream manufacturers, dealers in and manufacturers of feeding stuffs and fertilizers and producers of and dealers in lime products for agricultural purposes.

Those licenses expire December 31, being issued for the calendar year. Carbonated beverage licenses expire one year from the date of issue. Up to November 1 a total of 3,566 bakery licenses, 1,702 ice cream licenses and 3,145 oleomargarine licenses had been issued. A total of 965 carbonated beverage licenses are in force at the present time.

During the month of October a total of 617 samples of various kinds of food taken from stores throughout the State were sent by the food agents of the department to the bureau laboratory for examination to determine if there is any violation of the pure food laws. During that period dealers in various lines sent 145 samples to the laboratory for examination to determine if the products meet with the department standards. The samples included foods, feeding stuffs, fertilizers, lime products, linseed oil and turpentine.

## BOX ELDER BUG IS SOURCE OF CONCERN

AN unusual number of inquiries relating to the box-elder bug and specimens of the insect are being received by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture. Most of the inquiries express concern, desiring identification of the bug as well as advice about its extermination.

Box-elder plant bugs breed and thrive on the native box-elder or ash-leafed maple where they are practically unnoticed. The adult is a dark gray bug marked with bright red bands and about one-half inch long. They are sucking insects and use their siphon or beak to take their nourishment in the form of sap from the underside of the leaves. They live on the leaves in great numbers undergoing all the changes to reach the adult form.

In the Fall, or as soon as the trees no longer offer liquid refreshment, they congregate in large numbers upon the tree trunk. In the adult stage and Winter approaching, the bug searches for hibernating quarters. If there are no convenient shelters near the trees such as boardwalks, trash, or debris, the bugs go to outbuildings and stables but frequently discover the home first. They crowd their way into the house through cracks in the doors and windows and pile into recesses and crevices in the porch and pillars. Being stupid they cannot be frightened away but must be forcibly ejected. A redeeming feature of the bug, however, is that it does not bite, cannot sting and does not destroy household property or food.

It is not an easy matter to kill the bugs. In cities or villages much good could be accomplished by the local shade tree authorities by spraying trees at the proper time to kill the bugs in the immature stages. Since they crowd together particularly in cooler places, the vacuum sweeper is an effective means of getting rid of them. After sweeping them up they should be burned. Outdoors, where they are found in numbers, boiling water or kerosene may be used effectively.

## WEATHER PROLONGS VEGETABLE HARVEST

HARVESTING of the late beet crop in the Bucks-Philadelphia area is being delayed somewhat as the present weather continues to be favorable for additional growth.

The lack of adequate rainfall during late September and October impaired size and quality of carrots in many sections of eastern Pennsylvania. Digging is progressing rather slowly in the Bucks-Philadelphia area. A lack of demand and the prolonged open weather as well as the labor situation have combined to leave many fields unharvested at present.

## $42,558 IS OFFERED EXHIBITORS IN 1942 PENNA. FARM SHOW

A TOTAL of 8,506 cash awards amounting to $42,558 are offered exhibitors in the 1942 Pennsylvania Farm Show which will be held January 19 to 23 in the great farm show building, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light, who is chairman of the Farm Show Commission, has announced. The premium money is divided among the various departments as follows: Horses, $3,450; horse and mule pulling contest, $500; sheep, $3,038; swine, $2,430; beef cattle, $5,270; dairy cattle, $10,155; milk, $202; corn, $753; small grains, $201; potatoes, $554; 4-H Club corn and potato judging contests, $216; cigar leaf tobacco, $212; apples, $1,853; edible nuts, $65; vegetables, $589.50; maple products, $185; apiary products, $581.50; wool, $190; eggs, $480; baby chicks, $126; dressed turkeys, $48; poultry, $8,327; home economics, $1,877; sports, $65; state vocational demonstration contests, $600, and state contest of vocational school exhibits, $590.

Secretary Light has also announced that the commission has set December 4 as the closing date for all livestock entries and December 5 as the closing date for poultry entries. Entries in all departments excepting poultry are confined to residents of Pennsylvania.

The premium lists have been mailed but it is suggested that any person whose name is not on the mailing list and who is interested in exhibiting in any of the departments can procure information and entry blanks from the agricultural extension agent in each of the counties or by writing direct to the Farm Show Commission at Harrisburg.

Changes have been made in the floor plan of the main building where the commercial exhibits are held to allow for improved handling of the vast crowds which attend the show. Dead end isles have been eliminated, the passageways through the main display area now leading directly into the other portions of the building on the West and connecting with the main entrances on the East.

A large number of exhibition spaces have already been arranged for by commercial exhibitors, the displays showing every type of machinery and equipment which lessens the burdens on the farm and in the farm home. Because of the acute labor shortages with which the farmer is faced, it is believed that interest in every type of farm equipment will reach a high point in the coming show. Last year the attendance was close to the half million mark.

## APPLE PROCESSING MAKES BIG ADVANCE

PRODUCTION of canned apple products is making a tremendous advance this year in Pennsylvania, according to Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light. These products include apple sauce, apple juice, apple butter, vinegar, canned apples and canned segments. The season is not yet ended for the manufacture of these products, but reports show that purchases of apples by Pennsylvania manufacturers exceed greatly any previous year on record. These purchases were of such great quantities in Adams and Franklin counties that the apples left for sale as fresh fruit are probably the lightest in quantity during any of the past 10 years.

The cold storage warehouses in that district which ordinarily at this season are filled to capacity with packaged apples for sale as fresh fruit during the Winter months, were this season largely filled with bulk apples to be used by processors throughout the Winter season. Canners of Pennsylvania usually complete packing fruit about January 1 but this year manufacture of apple products will probably continue until Spring to complete the processing of the heavy purchases.

The excellent quality of Pennsylvania apples and the fact that they are particularly adapted for canning and processing purposes, combined with the enviable reputation of the products of Pennsylvania canners, has caused this State to take a leading position in the production of these products.

### Pastured Cows

A pastured cow walks about two and one-half miles in 24 hours, grazing as much during the night as during the day.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## MILK PRODUCTION IN PA. CONTINUES HIGH FEED SUPPLY LOWER

THE average production of milk per cow in herds on Pennsylvania farms November 1 was 16 pounds, which was ghtly below the record mark attained that date in 1939, according to reports the Department of Agriculture issued Secretary John H. Light. Indications int to an all-time high rate of feeding ains and concentrates per cow. Feed ices have shown a tendency to level off ring November but they are running ut 25 per cent higher than this time t year. This situation is emphasized a comparison of the value of grain d.

On November 1 last year the value of grain fed per 100 pounds averaged 59 compared with $1.92 on that date s year. Pastures were furnishing three rcent less feed. The average composi- n of 100 pounds of grain and concen- tes shows that there has been a slight rease in corn, oats, wheat and soy- ans but a decline in commercial mixed d and some tendency to use a higher rcent of home grown feeds in the ration.

Prospective supplies of feed for the inter season in this State are indicated be slightly below a year ago. Combined cks of corn, wheat and oats on farms ly in October were somewhat better n last year but will be offset by the rease both in number of livestock and higher feeding requirements because poor pastures. Roughage supplies are so favorable as last Fall and are obably down as much as five percent, spite of the fair carryover of hay d excellent silage crop made this year.

Milk production during October for the ited States reached nearly nine billion nds which is an increase of about five rcent above the production during that nth last year. It is now estimated that less unforeseen conditions develop, total oduction on farms for 1941 will prob- y be 116.5 billion pounds which will a new record by more than five billion nds. Domestic consumption of dairy ducts appears to have eased off ghtly, it is reported, as prices rose.

Announcement has been made that the PM has given A-5 preference ratings the manufacture of milk cans and tin- te dairy equipment. Only enough steel l be allocated to produce 955,000 cans essary to handle the anticipated in- ase in milk production, and 385,000 s needed for normal replacements.

## TO SHOW MOVIE OF SEED CONTROL WORK

ONE of the features of the exhibits of the Department of Agriculture the Pennsylvania Farm Show which ll be held from January 19 to 23, will a moving picture showing in detail seed control work carried on by the reau of Plant Industry. The picture ll show the agents in the field procuring mples from the various sources where rchases of seeds are made and the ocess through which the seeds are taken the bureau laboratory where they are ted for germination and purity to see they are in conformity with the State governing seeds for planting.

Each year agents of the department it as many seed merchants and dealers possible throughout the State and ere it is felt desirable samples of vari- s seeds are taken and sent to the oratory for testing. There are approx- ately 2,500 merchants and dealers in State.

In the laboratory they are tested for mination and purity, the law requiring rtain standards which must be met. roughout the season many samples are o sent to the laboratory by dealers and rchants themselves as well as by rmers, the latter desiring to know the ndition of their own seeds before nting.

## TEST SHOWS AVERAGE OF 62% PRODUCTION

T the end of the eighth week of the Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying st the 1,105 participating birds showed average production of 62.56 percent. ving produced a total of 38,712 eggs the period. The average per bird s 35.03 eggs. Production for the eighth k was 67.42 percent.

## HORSE IN BIG ROLE AT PA. FARM SHOW

THAT the horse is not passing out of the farm picture is evidenced by the important place he will occupy in the Pennsylvania Farm Show which will be held from January 19 to 23 in the great State farm show building. In spite of the great advance in mechanization in agriculture, horse power still predominates in farm operations and the proverbial dobbin is one of the outstanding exhibits at the great Winter farm event.

A total of 62 cash prizes and ribbons are on the list for award to individual and group entries in the Belgian and Percheron divisions. Exhibits are limited to 100 horses and only Pennsylvania stock may be entered.

The horse and mule pulling contest is one of the outstanding features of the show, always attracting a vast crowd of people who are thrilled by the remarkable showing of strength of the farm animals. Cash awards totaling $500 are offered in that contest, indicating the important place the event occupies on the farm show program. The awards are divided between the heavy and light classes, in each of which the first prize is $75. Six other prizes are offered ranging from $50 to $10.

As in the case of other livestock the exhibit entry must be made on or before December 4.

## CHICK PRODUCTION IS AT HIGH RECORD

HATCHERY production of baby chicks in October totaled 21,406,000 chicks throughout the country, a record production for the month, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. This was 60 percent larger than the production in October last year and 56 percent above the previous high October production in 1939. Hatchings during the first 10 months of this year exceeded a billion chicks.

The price received by Pennsylvania farmers in mid-October for eggs was 38.1 cents per dozen which was 27 percent above prices a year ago and 17 percent above the previous 10-year average. This compares with the national average of 31 8 cents per dozen which was 34 percent above prices a year ago and 29 percent above the 10-year average.

Chicken prices advanced one-tenth of a cent compared with a national decline considerably less, however, than usual during the month ending October 15. On that date the Pennsylvania price was 19.1 cents per pound live weight, compared with the national price of 16 cents. Turkey prices at 25 cents per pound live weight, were the highest for the month since 1937. The national price was 18.8 cents which was the highest for the month since 1930. The combined index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers on October 15 for poultry products was 148 percent of the 1910-14 average, and advance of eight points over a month previously.

## LARGE AREA SPRAYED FOR MOTH CONTROL

THE latest report by the Bureau of Plant Industry to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture in the work of control of the gypsy moth, shows that during the current season a total of 178,302 pounds of arsenate of lead was used in spraying to kill the moth. Spraying operations were carried on in 19 townships of the three counties of Lackawanna, Luzerne and Monroe where the moth infestation is centered. The work covered 3,863 acres of woodland, 63,003 trees outside the woodland area and 2,025 properties located in towns.

Through the intensive efforts of the Department of agriculture with the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Plant Industry, the moth has been held to the area in which it was originally found several years ago.

Scouting work, which is carried on throughout the Winter months, has now begun in the moth infested area. In these operations the area is scouted for the moth egg masses which are painted with creosote to cause their destruction. Intensive spraying is done during the following Spring and Summer months in sections where great number of egg masses had been found.

## MOST FARMS IN PA. OWNED BY OPERATORS AVERAGE 86.3 ACRES

THAT Pennsylvania is comparatively a small-farm state is shown by the census of agriculture, preliminary figures of which have been received by the Department of Agriculture, which lists the average size of farms at 86.3 acres. Of the 169,027 farms, 49,813 are farms of from 50 to 99 acres, the greatest number of any size range. Next in number are the farms of from 100 to 174 acres of which there are 42,286. There are 29,337 farms from 20 to 40 acres in size, 11,487 farms from 175 to 259 acres, 4,355 from 260 to 499 acres, 572 from 500 to 999 acres, 127 of 1,000 acres and over. There are five of the latter class which have from 5,000 to 9,999 acres and one is 10,000 acres or more.

Since the last census which was taken in 1935 the number of farms in the State decreased from 191,284 and the proportion of all land in farms dropped from 55.3 percent in that year to 50.6 percent on April 1, 1940. In 1910 the percentage was 64.8. The approximate land area of the State is 28,828,800 acres of which 14,594,134 acres are in farm land. Of the total farm acreage, 10,419,297 acres are operated by full owners, 1,087,348 acres are operated by part owners and 2,658,-567 acres are operated by tenants showing that Pennsylvania farms are predominantly operated by their owners. The census shows that in 1939 crops were harvested from 6,097,116 acres of the total farm land acreage and that crop failures occurred on 115,989 acres.

The value of Pennsylvania farms, including land and buildings is placed at $864,199,795 of which $595,287,059 was represented as the value of those farms operated by their owners. The average value of the farms is placed at $5,113 and the average value per acre at $59.22. The value of the buildings on the farms is given as $500,862,289, of which $362,-227,064 is represented as the value of the buildings on the farms operated by the owners.

The value of the implements and machinery on the farms is $129,099,593 of which a total of $90,746,575 is represented as the value of the implements and machinery on the farms operated by the farm owners.

In commenting on these figures, Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light stated that "These data show conclusively that Pennsylvania stands out predominantly as a state in which the farmer has his own stake in agriculture, that by and large the Pennsylvania farmer is an agriculturist and farming is his life interest and livelihood. He therefore, rightly is an individualist, insisting upon freedom and independence of living his life and guiding his life's endeavor according to his inherent right and not as a subject to governmental edicts and regulations. Pennsylvania is not a tenant farming State; it is not a state of land barons; it is a State of diligent dirt farmers whose only interest is to till the soil to produce the food requirements of the general population and as a means of raising their families and preserving their land as an inheritance for their children. In practically all cases of the farm products raised in Pennsylvania, the production is consumed in this State and in most cases it is necessary to import additional products to supply the needs. This fact combined with the other fact that the great majority of the farms of this State are operated by their owners, places Pennsylvania in a far different position from that which exists in many other states which seem to be looked upon as the gauge when legislators arrive at theoretical plans for curing the ills of agriculture which usually result in those ills becoming still more and more aggravated."

## REDUCE ALLOCATIONS FOR FARM MACHINES

ALLOCATIONS of steel and other defense metals to farm machinery manufacturers for 1942 have been reduced to 80 per cent of the 1941 production, according to information received by Secretary of Agriculture John H. Light. OPM in Washington has announced that farm machinery manufacture has been given the highest civilian priority rating but there will be much less new farm machinery manufactured than in the past two years.

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## FIVE POINT ADVANCE IN FARM PRODUCTS DURING PAST MONTH

THE index of prices paid Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased five points during the month ended November 15, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture.

The general level of prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities in the United States on November 15 was four points less than in October. Although the decline was the first to be registered since the upswing began last April, the index at 135 percent of the August 1909-July 1914 average was 36 points above a year ago. A few commodity groups showed increases since October 15, with chicken and eggs up 11 points, and grains and dairy products slightly higher. An aggregate crop production about four percent larger than 1940 is virtually assured this year. Feed grain supplies are the largest in 20 years, and food grains are more than ample. The production of dairy and poultry products was at high levels on November 1, while marketings of livestock in the four weeks ended November 15 were six percent above last year.

Following are Pennsylvania's commodity prices:

| | | Nov. 15, 1940 | Nov. 15, 1941 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | Bu. | $ .85 | $ 1.01 |
| Corn | Bu. | .73 | .79 |
| Oats | Bu. | .39 | .46 |
| Barley | Bu. | .56 | .65 |
| Rye | Bu. | .64 | .76 |
| Buckwheat | Bu. | .52 | .61 |
| Potatoes | Bu. | .60 | .85 |
| Apples | Bu. | .75 | .95 |
| Hay | Ton | 9.70 | 11.60 |
| Hogs | Cwt. | 6.40 | 10.40 |
| Beef Cattle | Cwt. | 8.00 | 8.80 |
| Veal Calves | Cwt. | 10.40 | 11.90 |
| Sheep | Cwt. | 3.40 | 4.15 |
| Lambs | Cwt. | 8.50 | 9.60 |
| Milk Cows | Head | 82.00 | 92.00 |
| Horses | Head | 115.00 | 103.00 |
| Mules | Head | 117.00 | 108.00 |
| Chickens | Lb. | .160 | .188 |
| Turkeys | Lb. | .23 | .27 |
| Milk, wholesale | Cwt. | 2.30 | 2.80 |
| Milk, retail | Qt. | .116 | .122 |
| Butter | Lb. | .32 | .37 |
| Butterfat | Lb. | .30 | .37 |
| Eggs | Doz. | .328 | .404 |
| Wool | Lb. | .38 | .42 |

## INTENSIFY EFFORTS IN POTATO GRADING

INTENSIVE efforts have been made and are being continued by the Department of Agriculture to familiarize all growers, shippers, packers, dealers and distributors of this State with potato grades. Secretary John H. Light has declared and it is felt that there should not be any lack of information by those persons pertaining to the requirements. During the present marketing season and over the past few years, the Department of Agriculture with the cooperation of the Extension Service of State College and the Pennsylvania Potato Growers' Association and other groups, has held many potato grading schools in all the principal potato producing counties of the State. Thousands of interested persons have attended the schools to get first hand information as to the requirements of the official potato grades and to learn how to properly pack potatoes so that sales in closed packages will comply with the potato marketing law and meet the trade and consumer requirements for quality.

The intensive training has resulted in greatly improved potato grading and a greatly improved pack of Pennsylvania potatoes on all markets of this State.

## LABORATORY TESTS BREAK ALL RECORDS

DURING the month of November more than 166,000 chicken blood samples were tested for pullorum disease, breaking all monthly records for those tests in the history of the Bureau of Animal Industry laboratory, the Department of Agriculture has announced. The peak period for tests for that poultry disease is during the last three months of the year and the steady increase in the number of poultrymen entering the blood testing program assures better poultry flocks and a great decrease in losses in raising chicks.

The necessity of controlling pullorum disease has become evident to everyone associated with the poultry industry for it is listed as the most destructive disease of baby chicks. It is also responsible for heavy losses through the effects on the fertility and hatchability of eggs.

## SPIDERS OF SERVICE AS FOES OF INSECTS

"GOOD NEIGHBORS" is the appelation given spiders by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture in a discussion of those creatures in which it is stated that real spiders are all beneficial and friends of mankind and that they contribute more, perhaps, than any other group of arthropods, to check the too rapid multiplication of insect life.

The food of spiders is chiefly insect life which they secure in many and devious ways according to their kind and temperament. Some choose to catch their prey with the speed and agility of the hunting animal; others prefer to lie in wait, watching from holes and corners to pounce upon the victims, while a large proportion construct the well known intricate webs in which they trap their victims.

Although the belief is generally held that the bite of spiders is of a venomous nature, this it is held is not the case. Some spiders may secrete poison with which to kill their prey but in most instances it is doubted that it would cause any more harm to a human than that of a mosquito bite. It is believed that with few exceptions the spiders occurring in this region are harmless.

Occasionally, among the insects and specimens received by the Department of Agriculture for identification, we find the real culprit among the spider tribes—the black widow. This spider whose poisonous nature has caused it to be feared far and wide sometimes appears in numbers in certain sections of the State. The black widow spider has given a bad reputation to all spiders and many an innocent harmless victim has been swatted because it was suspected of being the notorious black widow, which has striking characteristics that distinguish it from all other spiders.

Black widows are usually encountered in the female stage. Due to cannibalism, the males are seldom seen among the webs occupied by the females. It is because of the habit of eating its mate that the female is designated "Black Widow." About three-eighths of an inch in diameter, the abdomen of the "Black Widow" resembles a large, shiny, black currant. The underside of the body is usually more or less conspicuously marked with a bright red spot in the shape of an hour glass, giving this creature also the name hourglass spider. In some individuals the red spot may be so dark as to be hardly discernible; in others it may be a yellowish color.

The males are about half the size of the full grown females with a whitish hourglass spot on the underside. The body of the male is marked above with one longitudinal and six oblique broken lines along the side.

About human dwellings the spiders build their webs in dimly lighted places such as corners of garages, outhouses, cellars, basements, barns, sheds or other similar frame structures. The web is an irregular criss-cross of coarse threads ending in a funnel-shaped tube. This leads generally to some crack or hole, in which the spider awaits its prey. Attached nearby are the egg cases; a whitish web ball about the size of a pea in which 400 to 500 eggs may be found. The destruction of webs, egg cases and spiders is an obvious method of control. Spraying with oil has been resorted to on occasions and the use of household fly sprays has been effective under certain conditions.

Persons bitten by the "Black Widow" spider or suffering from symptoms suspected to be those of spider bites, should consult a physician as soon as possible, giving reasons for suspecting diagnosis. The symptoms indicated by persons bitten by the "Black Widow" are reported as "sharp stinging or momentary prick, followed immediately or in a few moments by swelling and progressively spreading pain, increasing in severity to a maximum of an hour in most cases."

As first aid treatment in case one is bitten, the opening of the bite exactly through the puncture with a safety razor blade or equally sharp instrument is suggested, the object being to induce bleeding. The application of suction either with the mouth or a suction cup, as in snake bite treatment, is also recommended.

It is reassuring to know, however, that in spite of this bad example, the majority of spiders are harmless and beneficial.

## SHEEP COMPETITION KEEN AT FARM SHOW $3,038 IN PRIZES

WITH prizes totaling $3,038, the sheep exhibit at the Pennsylvania Farm Show which will be held from January 19 to 23 in the famous farm show building is sure to include the top-notch animals of the various breeds of Pennsylvania's widely known sheep flocks. The breeds listed for showing in the vast annual agricultural event are the Shropshire, Hampshire, Southdown, Oxford, Dorset, Cheviot, B and C Type Merino and Rambouillet.

Since Pennsylvania ranks favorable among the agricultural states in pure strain sheep breeds, competition in the exhibit at the show is among the keenest of any of the competitive divisions. According to the latest estimates there are approximately 400,000 sheep in this State which are valued at about $2,150,000. The principal sheep raising sections of the State are Greene and Washington counties which are far in the leadership among all the counties of Pennsylvania. Of the total number of sheep in the State, Greene County is credited with about 124,000 and Washington County has about 90,000 sheep. Mercer County is third among the counties in sheep population with about 12,200 and Crawford County fourth with about 11,000 sheep.

Many of the sheep of those areas are known as the fine wool breeds and some of the finest wool produced anywhere in the world comes from that section of Pennsylvania. Many entries at the Farm Show are made from the highly bred flocks of those sections.

The value of the wool crop in Pennsylvania approximates $750,000 anually.

## GRAIN FUMIGANTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE

ACCORDING to information received by Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture, the Office of Production Management in Washington has made provisions to enable dealers to purchase supplies of fumigants from manufacturers on orders accompanied by a statement that they are to be sold for use in fumigating stored grain. It is suggested that dealers and farmers procure sufficient supplies of the fumigants to fill normal demands and also to meet a probable increase in demands because of the larger quantities of grain in storage.

Attention is also called to the necessity of the proper care and fumigation when necessary of grains in farm storage, not only to protect the grain itself but to prevent it from becoming a source of infestation of other grain that has been properly cared for in storage.

The fumigants now recommended for use on grains stored in farm bins or steel bins are the ethylene dichloride-carbon tetrachloride mixture or the carbon disulfide-carbon tetrachloride mixture. However, it is now recommended that the dosage of either of these fumigants when used in farm bins be increased to six gallons per 1,000 bushels of grain.

## 1941 SEED REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE

THE 1941 Seed Analyses Report has just been issued by the Department of Agriculture. The publication contains general information pertaining to the analyzing of seeds, the requirements under the law, tables showing seed samples which violate the seed law, names of seed wholesalers and retailers, showing legal and illegal samples, list of samples analyzed and tested for farmers and seedsmen and a statement regarding samples analyzed and tested for State seed certification and other agencies.

## PENNA. RANKS HIGH IN MANY PRODUCTS

AMONG all states, in 1940, Pennsylvania ranked first in the production of cigar-leaf tobacco, second in buckwheat, third in peaches, fourth in clover and timothy hay, potatoes, sour cherries, commercial apples, and maple sugar and syrup, fifth in grapes and sweet cherries, sixth in pears, seventh in total tobacco and all cherries, eighth in timothy seed, ninth in rye, tenth in hay, eleventh in winter wheat, and twelfth in corn, and twenty-first in average of principal crops harvested.

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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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John H. Light, Secretary of Agriculture

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## AVERAGE ACRE YIELD SHOWS INCREASE IN THREE MAJOR CROPS

INCREASES in average yields per acre on Pennsylvania farms occurred only three of the nine major farm ps this year, compared with 1940, according to preliminary figures of the Department of Agriculture. Only small ances are shown in the other crops, st of them holding closely to the res of last year.

The increases were recorded in corn, kwheat and potatoes and in each case increase was substantial. The average rage yield of corn is placed at 43.5 shels compared with 40 bushels last r and a previous 10-year average of 2 bushels. Buckwheat production avered 20 bushels per acre compared with 5 bushels in 1940 and for the previous year average. The potato yield jumped m an average of 130 bushels last year 133 bushels this year which compares h a previous 10-year average of 120 shels.

Other yields are as follows: Wheat raged 20 bushels per acre compared th 20.5 bushels last year and the previ- 10-year average of 19.7 bushels; oats lded 34.5 bushels compared with the rage of 35 bushels last year and the year average of 28.4 bushels. The avge barley yield was 26 bushels, the e as last year, compared with an rage of 26.8 bushels for the 10-year iod. Production of rye averaged 14 shels compared with 14.5 bushels in 0 and 14.1 bushels for the 10-year iod; the average tobacco yield is placed 1,471 pounds compared with 1,472 nds last year and 1,109 pounds as an rage for the previous 10 years. The yield is placed at 1.17 tons per acre pared with an average of 1.35 tons 1940 and 1.18 tons as the average for previous 10 years.

## POTATO QUARANTINE LIFTED IN 5 AREAS

NDER an order just issued by Secretary John H. Light of the Detment of Agriculture five additional as in this State are released from the to wart quarantine. They are Mauch unk, Carbon County; Sheppton and eida, Schuylkill County, and Snow e and Clarence, Centre County. The rantine had been lifted some time ago Moosic, Lackawanna County; Osceola lls, Clearfield County; Newtown, Cen- County; Rural Valley and Yatesboro, mstrong County; Robertsdale and od on the boundaries of Bedford, ntingdon and Fulton Counties; Jack- Schuylkill County, and Lilly, Nanty- and Vintondale, Cambria County.

In all the released areas soil treatment the eradication of potato wart had n applied to all known infected gars. After four or five years checking all the potato plantings in those comities without finding any evidence of disease, the Department has decided t the quarantine restrictions may be ely removed.

## ANIMALS INSPECTED BEFORE SLAUGHTER

URING the period from January 1 to November 1 a total of 435,162 mals were slaughtered for meat under inspection of the Division of Meat giene of the Bureau of Animal Indus- of the Department of Agriculture. that number 433,734 passed the inction and 1,428 animals were conmned as being unfit for consumption. e animals inspected for slaughter were addition to the inspection by agents of bureau of 54,742 carcasses examined meat markets and slaughter houses, which 14 were condemned.

During that period the bureau issued licenses to livestock dealers throughthe State.

## LABORATORY MAKES 16 RABIES TESTS

IXTEEN brains of animals were examined for rabies during the month November at the laboratory of the reau of Animal Industry of the Detment of Agriculture, three of which wed the animals to have been affected the disease. It was reported that 19 sons and one animal were bitten or osed to rabid dogs.

## PLAN ESTABLISHMENT OF 3 NEW CANNERIES

ESTABLISHMENT in this State of three new canneries next year, all of them by nationally known concerns, is indicated in reports to Secretary John H. Light of the Department of Agriculture. In addition to the new plants, capacities of a number of existing plants are being increased to produce greater quantities of canned goods. Ideal climatic conditions for growing fruits and vegetables, the highly fertile farms and their efficient management, and the close proximity of markets are among the factors which make Pennsylvania ideal for canning operations and have placed this State among the foremost of canned products producing states.

Two new products were canned in limited quantities and placed on the market during the past season by a few Pennsylvania canners. One was soybeans and the other a vegetable loaf made principally of soybean meal designed as a substitute for meat.

## COMPUTE VALUE OF SOLD, TRADED, USED PA. FARM PRODUCTS

THE 1939 value of farm products sold, traded, or used by farm households for the State of Pennsylvania was $235,087,532, according to a preliminary census report. Of the 169,027 farms recorded for the State, according to the 1940 Census of Agriculture, 165,395 reported farm products sold, traded, or used by farm households. The value figure represents the total of the reports for these individual farms including interfarm sales.

According to major source of income in 1939, the principal classes of farms and the number of farms in each class were: Farm products used by farm households, 66,798 farms; dairy products, 41,897 farms; field crops, 21,959 farms; poultry and poultry products, 18,825 farms; and livestock, 7,525 farms.

There were 129,553 farms reporting livestock products sold for 1939 with the sales of such livestock products reported at $107,740,965. Of these farms, 41,897 reported dairy products as the major source of income. The sales of the dairy products on the 41,897 farms amounted to $55,800,694, while the value of all farm products sold, traded, or used by households on these same dairy farms was $93,796,356.

The total 1939 value compared with a value of $323 551,741 in 1929, of which $187,893,073 was the value of livestock and livestock products. Crops accounted for $145,812,248 of the total.

## SUGGESTS CONTROL OF PARASITES IN SHEEP

SUGGESTIONS for the control of the common stomach worm in sheep, listed as one of the most injurious of the many parasites which infest those animals, are contained in a release by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

The infestation usually comes from contaminated pastures and sometimes from contaminated water and feed. The effects of the infestation are sooner apparent and develop more rapidly in poorly nourished animals. Almost invariably their mischief is augmented by the presence of other parasites either in the stomach or in other organs.

Affected animals begin to show loss of weight and condition. They become weak and listless. Anemia becomes apparent by the pallid color of the membranes of the eyes and mouth. Dropsical swellings are not infrequent, sometimes shown by a fullness of the tissues below the jaw to which the name "bottle jaw" has been given. A wet Summer usually increases the severity of the disease and the mortality may be high.

There are effective medical remedies for the relief of the infestation, but the treatment should not depend upon the use of drugs alone but should be supported by sanitary measures aimed at the reduction and prevention of infection. It is suggested that overcrowding be avoided and that the animals be fed liberally. Avoid wet low lying pastures and the continuous use of the same pastures for successive groups of sheep; vacated pastures lose a large part of their contamination in the period of a year.

## DAIRY CATTLE LEAD PREMIUM LIST AT PENNA. FARM SHOW

DAIRY cattle lead the premium list of the Pennsylvania Farm Show which will be held from January 19 to 23, the cash prizes offered in that classification amounting to a total of $10,155. All exhibits are confined to breeders of this State and the show, which is the largest indoor farm products exposition in this country, attracts all the outstanding animals of the various breeds. Pennsylvania ranks high in the breeding of pure-bred dairy cattle and the exhibits attract dairymen from many sections of the country.

The breeds represented in the show are the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian and Jersey. In each of the divisions 24 awards are offered which include prizes in three different classes, those for individual bull calves, bulls, heifers and cows in one group; champion bulls and cows in another group and groups of cattle in the third class. Cash awards are made in the individual and group classes and ribbons are awarded in the champion class.

The judges in the various divisions are as follows: Ayrshire—Howard Barker, University of Maryland, the judging to be done Wednesday, January 21; Brown Swiss—Vernon C. Hull of Morristown, N. J., judging Monday, January 19; Guernsey—K. C. Sly, MacDonald Farms, Cortland, N. Y., judging Tuesday, January 20; Holstein-Friesian—C. F. Harrison, Cornell University, judging, Monday, January 19, and Jersey—Otto G. Schaefer, New York, N. Y., judging Tuesday, January 20.

## PA. IS FOURTH AMONG ALL POTATO STATES

WITH a total production for this year of 23,674,000 bushels, according to the preliminary figures of the Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania ranks fourth among the principal potato producing States of the country. Maine, Idaho, and New York lead in that order, Maine production being given as 45,360,000 bushels; Idaho, 28,560,000 bushels, and New York, 28,078,000 bushels. Last year Pennsylvania produced 24,570,000 bushels and an average production of 24,924,000 bushels over the previous 10-year period. The acreage this year was reduced to 178,000 acres from 189,000 acres planted to the tubers in 1940.

According to the outlook for next year the total United States potato acreage probably will be increased slightly over the relatively small acreage planted this year. Increases are expected in the commercial early areas and in the late states, but the acreage to be planted in the intermediate areas of which Pennsylvania is a part, may be decreased slightly. Yields equal to the average of recent years on the 3,060,000 acres suggested for planting to provide contemplated needs under the defense program, would result in a crop of about 375 million bushels or about the same as the 374 million bushels indicated as the production for this year.

Production of potatoes in the United States, as indicated by reported yields per acre on November 1, is placed at 2,168,000 bushels higher than the estimated of October 1. The crop is now placed at 376,701,000 bushels compared with 397,722,000 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 370,045,000 bushels.

## INCREASE IS SHOWN IN FARMERS' INCOME

TOTAL cash income to Pennsylvania farmers from farm marketings for the first nine months of this year is placed at $233,936,000, according to reports of the Department of Agriculture. This compares with a total for that period in 1940 of $201,496,000 and with $194,763,000 in the similar period in 1939.

The largest part of the income was derived from livestock and livestock products, these sources providing $168,930,000 of the total this year, compared with $141,976,000 during the nine months of last year and approximately the same amount during that period in 1939. Cash income from crops during the nine months this year was $65,006,000 compared with $59,518,000 during that period last year and $53,375,000 during the first nine months of 1939.

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# End of Volume